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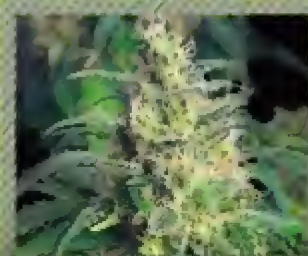
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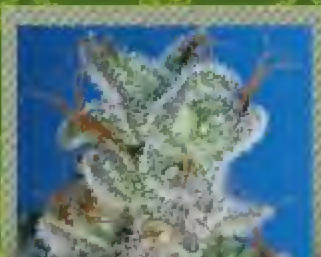
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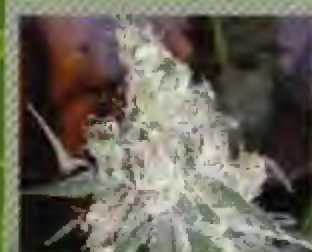
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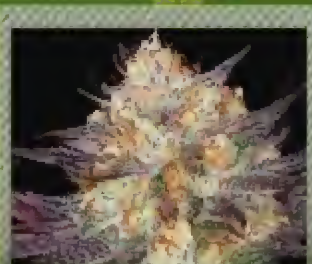
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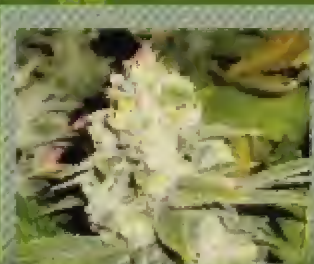
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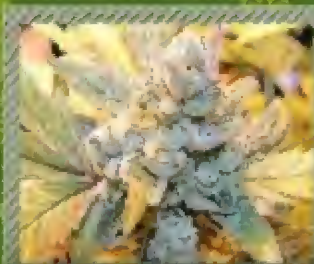
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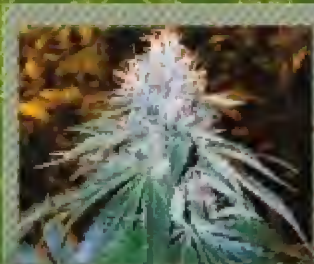
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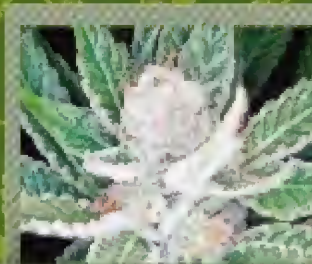
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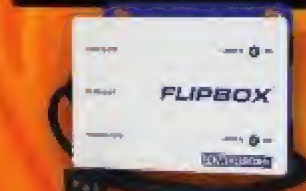
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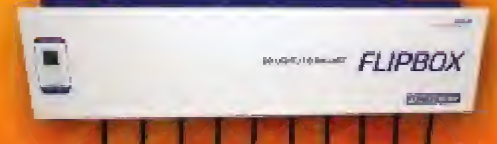
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LOCHFOOT

HAPPY INDEPENDENTS' DAY

One interesting thing about putting this magazine out is that, since we do it so far in advance (today, on my calendar, is March 22, 2011), it's like a miniature time capsule. Of course, the methods by which folks grow pot are not going to change dramatically in the three or so months between now and publication, but major global events at the moment are unfolding faster than we can cover them. So I ask you, man or woman of the future, What's happening? Did that nuclear reactor in Japan melt down? Did they finally nail Bobby Bonds for steroids? How's the war in Libya going? Are our troops on the ground yet in Yemen, Bahrain or Saudi Arabia? What's up with Syria? Do people still care about this Charlie Sheen stuff or has that all run its course?

Man or woman of the future, I have to confess to you that I don't hold our elected leaders in high esteem. I remember, nearly ten years ago, when the World Trade Center came crashing down, and our elected officials, Republicans and Democrats alike, gave us their vision for the future, the one we are living in right now. I can say with authority that they screwed the whole thing up across the board and there's really no part of American life that isn't worse now than it was then.

So let me just say that I have no faith in these politicians today who are giving me their vision for the future, the one you and I will soon be living in. And I guess that is the basic point of the story I wrote for this issue ("Right Like Me," page 76). I don't care whether it's Obama or the Tea Party, Sarah Palin or the Young Americans for Liberty—they are all trying to sell us a ticket to a show we will never see.

I do, however, have faith in you, man or woman of the future, because I have seen the work that you have done in regard to normalizing laws for our favorite plant, and you did that mostly by yourselves, without much help from any elected officials. There's still a long road ahead, but these grassroots medical-marijuana ballots have done more to dismantle prohibition than any politician of any stripe. So this Fourth of July, forget about those losers in Washington, and celebrate yourself, for you, man or woman of the future, are America's only hope.

Chris Simunek
Senior Editor

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By Dan Skye

Just a few years back, Canada looked like it would lead the world in cannabis-law reform. These days, however, progress has clearly stalled, and the government program to ensure access to medical cannabis has turned out to be a poorly run, bureaucratic mess.

44 CANADIAN VERTICAL GROWING

Our grow correspondent from Vancouver Island, hydroponics expert Erik Biksa, provides an inside look at a high-tech grow facility where Canadian farmers are stretching the limits of indoor pot production by using vertical gardening techniques to make use of every last bit of light.

56 NORTHEAST NUGS

Senior Cultivation Editor Danny Danko and acclaimed cannabis photographer Brian Jahn take a tour of three of New England's finest pot gardens to find out how growers in the northeastern US have put their region on the marijuana map.

76 RIGHT LIKE ME

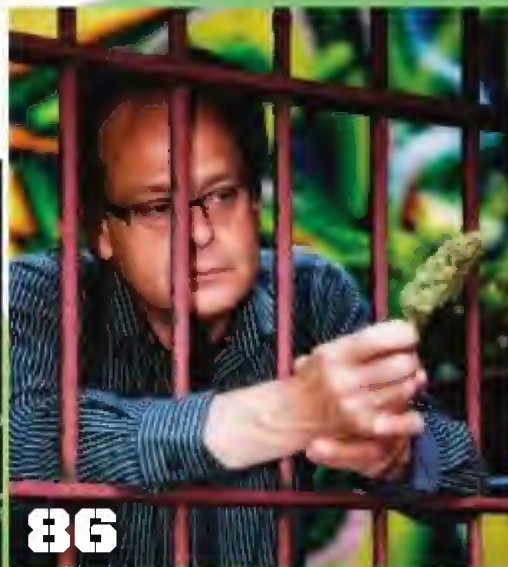
By Chris Simunek

HIGH TIMES attends the 2011 Conservative Political Action Conference to investigate America's continuing political divide. But beyond the pin-striped suits and straitlaced veneer, you might be surprised to learn that the right loves its herb just as much as the left.

86 THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW: MARC EMERY

By Dan Skye

The Canadian media once dubbed him the "Prince of Pot," but now the prince is in exile and serving a five-year sentence behind bars in the US for his highly effective cannabis activism. Even so, Marc Emery has lost none of his energy or his spirit for the fight.



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EDITED BY DAN SKYE

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EDITED BY DANNY DANKO & NICD ESCDNDDID
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HEADS VS. FEDS

I'm a 24-year-old male who likes to smoke weed recreationally. I got a great opportunity to speak with Steve Hager after a "Heads vs. Feds" event, and I explained my girlfriend's extremely unfortunate situation due to her being ill. With all the nausea, vomiting, fainting, constant pain and weakness due to extreme weight loss—along with many other, more personal effects from being ill—Amanda has been forced to take a break from her studies. It breaks my heart to see someone so intelligent and so caring slowly losing hope because of the situation. The doctors first diagnosed her with Crohn's disease due to the symptoms, but after many more tests, they're starting to think it may be something in her brain, which is obviously causing Amanda a lot of stress. We've been trying to get a medical-marijuana card for her due to the massive cost of buying her medication from less-than-reputable sources on the black market, but due to her age (20) and pot's stigma with the doctors in Northern Ontario, it's been next to impossible to obtain any help for her. Another large factor in the denial of a card has been the lack of an actual, settled, confirmed diagnosis—many doctors don't want to issue a medical-marijuana card without one. This is an extremely frustrating situation, because it's remarkable how much weed helps her eat, sleep, and deal with the nausea as well as the pain and stress. Even Amanda's mother—who didn't like the idea of her daughter smoking pot at first—now realizes how much it actually helps her. I have posted the red flag on the Rx Marijuana site and am working to obtain either a vaporizer or enough pot to make brownies (since natural oils work best).

Unfortunately, my conversation with Steven that night had to be cut short, but the little bit of great information he gave me has helped a lot. Though I have yet to achieve my goal for Amanda, Steve's advice really lifted our spirits for a while.

Cory

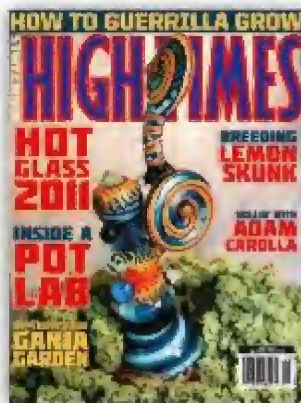
I was at the "Heads vs. Feds" event last night at Algonquin, and Steve Hager signed my poster afterward... which I'll be framing, by the way, I'm so thankful for it. The only thing is, I was so happy that I forgot to say "thank you" for inspiring me to be a more responsible toker, so I will let you know now that I am cutting out my morning toke before class (even the boring ones), and also that I'm going to get into activism when this semester ends. Thanks again, and thank you for a kick-ass magazine to read every month!

Taylor

BIG BUD COUNTRY

My employees and I think we may have created something new. We rolled a half-gram hash joint and then rolled it into the middle of a regular blunt filled with two grams of Montana-grown Blueberry. We smoked it down, and it was great. We dubbed it the "Montana Car Bomb."

Have you guys ever heard of such a thing?



Please let us know, or share it with your audience. Thanks!

Mike

I'd put money on the fact that there's better bud coming out of Helena, MT, than most other states. I just got back from Washington State and met seven different growers claiming to have the best bud—yet I again whipped out some of my Headband, and you would've thought they had seen a ghost! The stuff coming from A Perfect Cure in Helena is out of

this world. Much love from Montana!

Tina

FREE THE WEED

In "Romancing the Stone" (April '11 HT), Dan Skye commented on a couple of Jewish fellas selling their prized strain—"at a price, of course"—to the guys at DNA. Now I may be a little sensitive when it comes to racial stereotyping, but Mr. Skye, as HT's executive editor, you should know that comments like this may be taken the wrong way. If we're dancing around the subject of greed, it would be wise to point out where the true greed exists in the cannabis-seed business: Big seed companies acquire exclusive strains from people who have worked very hard to keep their specialized genetics available in an extremely competitive market. The seed companies then turn around and sell a pack of 10 seeds for outrageous prices and try to justify their costs for "producing" these seeds. Then the guys who developed the exclusive strains in the first place find that everybody on the block now has the same thing, and the value drops dramatically. How about if we point out all the greedy hypocrites who partake in this business, starting with the profit-motivated seed companies?

Lisa

Dan Skye responds:

The "at a price, of course" line you cited isn't mine; Don of DNA Genetics said this, and it was clear when I interviewed him that the price of Kosher Kush was expensive because this top strain warranted a high price, not because its developers were Jewish. And don't blame the seed companies: The cannabis industry is wide open—anyone can sell strains or open a seed company. Thankfully, the cannabis industry thrives in part because people from all of the world's cultures and ethnic groups are participating.

ERRATA

The name of the artist who made the Cali Connection's Klingon bong is Mike Fro.

In our February 2010 issue, a photo of a seed covered in trichomes on page 108 is courtesy of Chimera Seeds.

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A San Francisco attendee checks out a vendor's merchandise.

BACK TO CALI

HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup returns to San Fran this June!

Last year, for the first time, HIGH TIMES transplanted the world's premier cannabis competition from its permanent home in Amsterdam to San Francisco, where we assembled an all-star panel of experts and tasked them with judging the best buds, concentrates and edibles entered by the Golden State's legally operating medical-cannabis dispensaries and collectives. As it turned out, it was no easy task—Northern Cali is widely considered the home of the nation's premier cannabis cultivators, and the quality of the medicinal offerings at our first-ever homegrown Cannabis Cup clearly lived up to that reputation! Suffice it to say that the stakes were as high as the judges.



A giant 4:20 toke.

This June, the HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup returns to San Francisco for a two-day marijuana expo featuring the latest in grow equipment, vaporizers and smoking accessories, glassware, gadgets and gear—as well as cannabis-growing seminars with HT cultivation editors Danny Danko and Nico Escondido; highly informative breakout sessions with doctors, patients, activists and other leaders of the medical-marijuana movement; a Saturday-night VIP party with exclusive performances by top musical acts, and a closing-night awards ceremony to announce this year's winners of the Medical Cannabis Cup for best *indicas*, *sativas*, hybrids, concentrates and edibles.

The awards ceremony and all of the daytime events will be held at the Concourse Exhibition Center, part of the San Francisco Design Center, which boasts 125,000 square feet of space. The venue is also fully wheelchair-accessible and includes an extensive outdoor area where all attendees with a valid doctor's recommendation can access a special Prop. 215 patients' area featuring selected vendors.

For more



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Danny Danko and Valerie Corral check out *sativas*.



The coveted HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup.

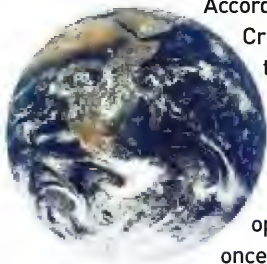


Edibles are in the competition, too.



A vapor bag for the masses.

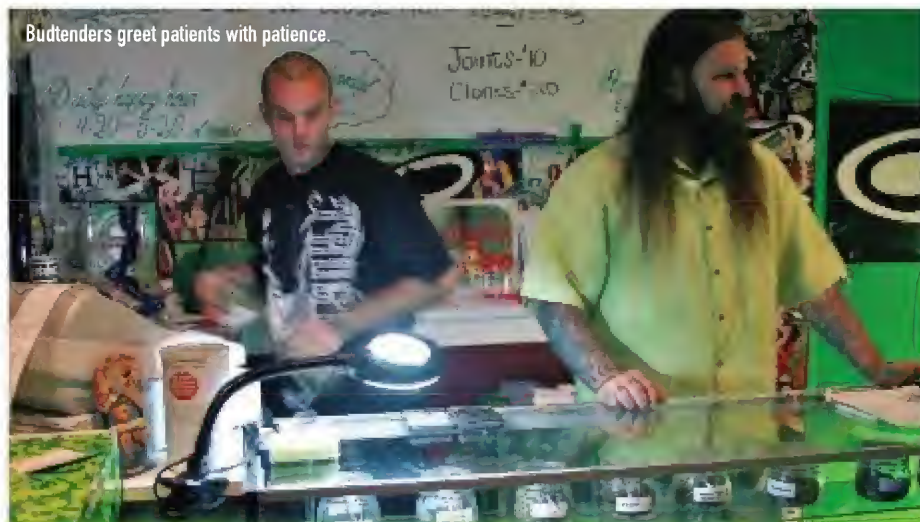
THE WORLD PREFERS WEED



According to the latest data from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime from 2010, between 129 million and 191 million people ages 15 to 64 used pot at least once in 2008, representing 2.9 to 4.3 percent of the world's population. In fact, cannabis was the most widely consumed illegal drug in each of the six continents analyzed for the report. (Sorry, Antarctica.) Amphetamine was the second-most-popular illegal drug, followed by cocaine (third) and opiates. The total number of people who used *any* illegal drug at least once in 2008 was somewhere between 155 million and 250 million.

But some context is required: Given pot's varying degree of criminality across the globe, a certain reluctance to admit its use on the part of respondents must be taken into consideration. The actual figure may be that as much as five percent of the earth's population used pot at least once during 2008. Affecting the numbers as well: Data on all illicit drug use in Africa is scarce, but the UNODC report still suggests that pot use is on the rise.

Here in North America, a border apparently makes a difference. In the US, the number of people ages 15 to 64 who used pot at least once rose from 12.3 percent in 2007 to 12.5 percent in 2008. But in Canada, they're smoking less: Approximately 2.9 million Canadians used pot at least once in 2008, compared to 3.2 million in 2007.



Budtenders greet patients with patience.

BEHIND THE COUNTER

Recently, a California budtender anonymously submitted the types of customers commonly encountered in dispensaries. Does anyone here look familiar?

PATIENT TYPE	TYPICAL TRAIT	HOW TO COPE
The Deal Maker	Tries to bargain—proposes buying three eighths for the price of two.	Remind them that they're purchasing medicine, not underwear.
The Undecided	"Give me a good <i>sativa</i> —no, an <i>indica</i> . Wait ... an eighth—no, just a gram ..."	Patience is a virtue.
The Super Stoner	Can't remember what they bought last time; expects you to remember. Often forgets cash.	Advise them to take a hit of oxygen now and then with their medicine.
The VIP	Demeanor communicates that they're in a hurry and have a life—and you don't.	Slip them the heaviest <i>indica</i> on hand to make them lethargic and boring.
The Complainer	Bitches about prices, quality or anything else they feel like getting irritated about.	Remind them other states put dispensary staffs in jail—and patients, too!
The Expert	Knows more about pot than <i>anybody!</i> Just ask them.	Make up a hot new strain and listen to the bullshit parade begin!
The Socializer	Never leaves the premises. Acts as the unofficial mayor of the dispensary. Talks to everyone—incessantly.	You can always fake laryngitis or deafness, but patience is required. Remember, the dispensary is usually their life.
The Mack Daddy	Hits on every female in the place, patient or budtender.	Keep a spare blow-up doll under the counter with their name on it. They'll get the message—maybe.
Righteous Rasta	Slaps you in the face with their dreads while droning on about "one love" and saving the world.	Threaten them with a job.
The Bad Guys	Usually seen brandishing firearms and demanding weed and cash.	Give them weed and cash. Note to self: hire better security.



The Trailer Park Boys are providing live concert mayhem.

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Canada's favorite criminals rise from the ashtray with a live stage show.

After seven seasons on TV and two feature films, the Trailer Park Boys appeared to call it quits with the release of *Trailer Park Boys: Countdown to Liquor Day* two years ago.

Say it ain't so! No more six-paper joints, trailer-sized growrooms or driveways made of hash? No more piss jugs, swish barrels, stolen groceries, shit vultures, rum and Cokes, or Bubbles, Ricky and Julian?

But a funny thing happened on the way to early retirement: Despite constantly dreaming up new ways—generally illegal—to make enough money to afford a life of leisure, the boys still ended up drunk, high and unemployed. So what better way to get back on their feet than mounting a live stage version of their adventures and taking it on the road?

But what to call it? Um ... how about *Trailer Park Boys: Drunk, High and Unemployed*? With a heavy focus on audience participation, this live-action extravaganza re-creates the beloved world of the Trailer Park Boys—where friends, family, good times and great dope outweigh every other concern. Even better, with the TPB phenomenon finally catching on as a cult sensation in the US, the tour schedule now includes several stateside stops.

Having shared bills in the past with TPB mega-fans like Axl Rose, Sebastian Bach and Rush, the Boys are no strangers to massive rock crowds. But generally, the *Drunk, High and Unemployed* tour will remain a more intimate affair, designed to delight the uninitiated and longtime fans alike. Bubbles sings his hits like "Liquor and Whores"; Julian schemes new ways to make money, such as selling the audience hot dogs at a considerable markup; and Ricky worries about fitting in his next bong hit—or maybe selling a bit of what he smuggled down from Canada.

Spend a night hanging with the Boys, but consider leaving your valuables at home!

For information on all Trailer Park Boys happenings, visit trailerparkboys.com.



Humboldt Honeys hype Humboldt Fire.

LIGHT YOUR FIRE!

Last fall, Humboldt Fire came out with its slow-burning hemp rolling papers, seducing the toker community with a memorable marketing campaign. On the cover of every pack, a classic Alberto Vargas-style pinup vixen rides a large, lit match across the Humboldt sky. The company also enlisted two "Humboldt Honeys" who made the rounds at national rolling-paper conventions [yes, such things exist] with a single request: "Let me light your fire."

But the proof is in the puffing. Doug Kennedy, publisher of *Roll Your Own* magazine, declares that Humboldt Fire meets his criteria for delivering a great smoking experience no matter what you're putting in it. "The flavor of a good rolling paper should be neutral," he notes, "and should not add or detract from the smoking material. I would say this is a very good paper—a fine paper!"

Visit humboldt-fire.com.

LSD LEGEND DIES

Owsley "Bear" Stanley, the legendary sound engineer who cooked up some of the finest LSD of the 1960s, died in a car crash in his adopted homeland of Australia. Stanley was 76. He discovered the recipe for LSD in a chemistry journal at the University of California at Berkeley. His Purple Haze inspired Jimi Hendrix's classic hit, and the Grateful Dead—whom Stanley briefly managed—wrote about him in their song "Alice D. Millionaire." The band Blue Cheer took its name from another of his acid concoctions.

In a *San Francisco Chronicle* interview from 2007, Stanley said: "What I did was a community service, the way I look at it. I was punished for political reasons. Absolutely meaningless. Was I a criminal? No. I was a good member of society. Only my society and the one making the laws are different."



The Bear (left) at the height of notoriety.



POTHEAD PILLOWS

Sometimes, really dank weed inspires stoners to muse: "This is so sweet-smelling, I'd love to go to sleep with my head resting on a pillow of this!" And now you can—check out these super-soft, breathable pillowcases from IBudYou.com, each one imprinted with one of the world's top pot strains. Take your pick from Sour Diesel, Strawberry Kush, Purple Haze and many more. Your dreams will never be sweeter.

For more cool products, visit the *Personal Stash* at ibudyou.com.

PREHISTORIC SHROOMING

Archaeologists have discovered a cave in Spain that may provide proof that cavemen knew all about the effects of psilocybin mushrooms. In a cave mural dating back 6,000 years, there are 13 mushrooms depicted along with various animals. Researchers from the US and Mexico believe the drawing is spiritual in nature and may have had significance in the religious rituals of the cave's former residents. The mural represents the oldest evidence of the use of mushrooms in Europe.



Early psychedelic art in Spain.

SHOWBUZZ



Cashing in on Charlie.

GREEN MA-SHEEN

At the height of Charlie Sheen's mega-tirades, a new strain of weed called "Charlie Sheen" suddenly appeared on the shelves of LA dispensaries.

What a coincidence! A brand-new strain named for Sheen is unveiled just as the TV star goes nuclear. What are the odds?

The word is that growers are now heading back into their gardens to grow more Charlie Sheen because of its popularity—which, frankly, is kind of scary.

TAGGED OUT

In March, Theodora Richards, the daughter of the Rolling Stones' Keith Richards, was arrested in New York City for writing graffiti on the side of a convent. Richards, a model, was also cited for pot possession. In case you're interested, here's what she wrote: "T♥A."



Keith's kid gets cuffed.

We'd say she deserved to be arrested—for aggravated lameness.



Klay gets flayed.

NO, HE DIDN'T!

Washington State University basketball player Klay Thompson was pulled over in Pullman, WA, for a broken headlight. The cop said he smelled pot, but Thompson denied smoking. All the same, his car was searched and Thompson was busted for possession of 1.95 grams, a possible misdemeanor. (His car was impounded, too.) Then he was suspended for a game. But that wasn't enough—before the tip-off for WSU's next game, Thompson made a tearful, on-court apology to his fans over the PA system: "I made a mistake. I had bad judgment, and I would do anything to be out there today."

Apparently, no cross was available for Thompson to be nailed to—all for less than two grams of pot.

LICENSE TO CHILL

A new book written by a former girlfriend of the late John F. Kennedy Jr. tries to make the case that he enjoyed living dangerously. In *Come to the Edge*, Christina Haag reveals that JFK Jr. smoked pot, read books about tantric sex and almost died kayaking once.

That's living dangerously? We'll give JFK Jr. one out of three.



JFK Jr. liked jays.

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THE WARS

The DEA says yes to pharma-pot, no to plants.

Mahmoud ElSohly, the US government's lone licensed pot farmer, let the cat out of the bag years ago. But it took until November 2010 for the Feds to finally make it official.

Testifying under oath back in 2005 in the case of *Craker v. DEA*, ElSohly revealed that he held a contract with the pharmaceutical giant Mallinckrodt Baker to provide the biotech firm with plant-derived THC extracts. Mallinckrodt needed the extracts, ElSohly explained, to develop a generic, organic THC-based competitor to Marinol, the FDA-approved synthetic THC pill that has been legal by prescription since the mid-1980s. Under the federal government's existing monopoly on marijuana production—a monopoly that was upheld in 2009, when the DEA rejected its own administrative-law judge's decision in *Craker*—ElSohly is the only man in America who can legally fulfill Mallinckrodt's request. ElSohly's research facility, based on the campus of the University of Mississippi at Oxford, remains the only entity authorized by the Feds to cultivate pot for research purposes.

Fast-forward to November 1, 2010: That's when the DEA announced in the Federal Register its intent to "expand the schedule III listing to include" pharmaceutical products containing "naturally derived" formulations of THC. After years of waiting, it appears that Mallinckrodt and the company's federally approved pot provider are finally going to be able to bring their organic Marinol pill to market.

And Mallinckrodt isn't alone. According to the DEA's statement of intent:



Big Pharma is getting the green light for ganja.

"The DEA has received four petitions from companies that have products that are ... under review by the FDA. Each product is a generic formulation of Marinol."

But while the DEA's plans may further the advent of legally available cannabis-plant-based medicines in the US, don't think for a moment that the agency is in any way softening its longstanding opposition to the use of marijuana itself as a medicine. Regardless of any rescheduling, the DEA maintains that both the marijuana plant and any plant-derived THC that is *not* contained in an FDA-approved pharmaceutical drug will continue to be illegal under federal law.

"THC, natural or synthetic, [will] remain a schedule I controlled substance," DEA spokesman Rusty Payne affirmed to the Washington, DC, publication *The Daily Caller* in a February email correspondence. "Under the proposed rule, in those instances in the future where the FDA might approve a generic version of Marinol, that version of the drug will be in the same schedule as the brand name version of the drug, regardless of whether the THC used in the generic version was synthesized by man or derived from the cannabis plant."

In other words, while the DEA's plans may result in a future financial windfall for Big Pharma, the agency's proposed reclassification will offer zero legal relief for med-pot patients. Doubtless, the DEA would have it no other way.—Paul Armentano

DRUG DOGS GET IT WRONG

It's been 17 years since the US Supreme Court, in *United States v. Place*, first upheld law enforcement's use of drug-sniffing dogs under the premise that "the nose knows." This past February, investigators at the University of California at Davis concluded that the high court's nearly two-decades-old ruling is based on nothing more than a scientific fiction.

In a study published in the January issue of the science journal *Animal Cognition*, researchers reported that drug dogs were falsely alerted over 200 times in rooms that contained neither drugs nor the scent of illicit contraband. Eighteen highly trained dog/handler teams participated in the study, which found that the dogs were more likely to err if their handlers believed that con-



K-9 narcs are none too reliable.

traband was present.

The UC Davis researchers speculated that the high rate of false alerts occurred because dogs often respond to subtle or unintentional visual cues from their masters. "Handlers' beliefs that scent was present potentiated handler identification of detection dog

alerts," the research team concluded. "This confirms that handler beliefs affect outcomes of scent detection dog deployments."

Not surprisingly, police appear to be no more likely to correctly identify the scent of pot than their dogs. In 2004, researchers at the University of Pennsylvania School

of Medicine conducted a study to assess whether police officers could accurately detect the odor of packaged marijuana stuffed in the trunk of a car. Six of the study's nine participants could not.

Ironically, in a second trial, all nine participants failed to reliably detect the odor of marijuana emanating from the exhaust system of a cannabis greenhouse.

"The present findings throw into question ... the validity of observations made by law enforcement officers using the sense of smell to discern the presence of marijuana," the investigators concluded. "Blanket acceptance of testimony based upon reported detection of odors for probable cause is questionable, and "empirical data to support or refute such testimony in specific cases is sorely needed."

Perhaps someone should tell the Supreme Court.—PA

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BUZZ

DON'T BLAME

The anti-pot crowd have seized upon psychosis to demonize the plant.

BY PAUL ARMENTANO

Prohibitionists have a long history of exploiting tragedy to further their own Drug War agenda. Case in point: Members of Congress in the 1980s seized upon the cocaine overdose of basketball star Len Bias to enact sweeping legislative changes that established mandatory-minimum sentencing in drug crimes, random workplace drug-testing for public employees, and the creation of the Drug Czar's office.

So it was hardly surprising to see the anti-drug zealots return to this tried-and-true playbook in the days immediately following the shooting of Arizona Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and 18 others. Only hours after alleged shooter Jared Lee Loughner was taken into custody, pundits on the political right opined that the 22-year-old former pot smoker had been driven mad by weed.

For instance, barely a day after the massacre, former George W. Bush speechwriter David Frum posed the question "Did pot trigger the Giffords shooting?"—to which the longtime conservative commentator answered, "Increasingly, experts seem to be saying 'yes.'"

Frum's accusation appeared to gain a modicum of respectability one month later, when the mainstream media highlighted a report in *Archives of General Psychiatry* that purported to show a link between pot use and psychosis.

"It is increasingly clear that marijuana is a cause of schizophrenia," the study's lead researcher, Matthew Large of the Prince of Wales Hospital in New South Wales, Australia, told the website WebMD in February. (In a separate interview, he said he was "horrified" by suggestions that the plant should be legalized and regulated.) Large further insisted that "the schizophrenia caused by cannabis starts earlier than schizophrenia with other causes."

Or not.

In fact, this supposedly "new" study contained no new findings at all. Instead, Large and his team simply reviewed previously published research, much of it *decades* old.

"There are no new data—I want to emphasize that. This is a meta-analysis, which means it [reviews] the studies that were already out there," explained SUNY Albany psychology professor Mitch Earleywine, the author

of the book *Understanding Marijuana: A New Look at the Scientific Evidence*, speaking on the NORML Daily Audio Stash several days after the report's release. "What you're not hearing in the media is that, in fact, this [reported association] is probably early-onset folks self-medicating [with cannabis]."

There are several published reports to back up Earleywine's suspicion. For example, a 2005 study of 1,500 subjects appearing in the scientific journal *Addiction* reported that the development of "psychotic symptoms in those who had never used cannabis before the onset of [such] symptoms ... predicted future cannabis use."

Other studies reinforcing Earleywine's self-medication theory include a 2008 study published in the *International Journal of Mental Health Nursing*, which found that schizophrenics typically report using cannabis to reduce anxiety and "improve their mental state." Indeed, marijuana use has been associated with clinically objective *benefits* in some schizophrenics. Recently, a 2010 report in the journal *Schizophrenia Research* found that schizophrenic patients with a history of cannabis use demonstrate higher levels of cognitive performance compared to nonusers. Researchers in that study concluded: "The results of the present analysis suggest that [cannabis use] in patients with SZ [schizophrenia] is associated with better performance on measures of processing speed and verbal skills. These data are consistent with prior reports indicating that SZ patients with a history of [cannabis use] have less severe cognitive deficits than SZ patients without comorbid [cannabis use]."

Clinical literature also casts doubt on Large's claim that marijuana use accelerates mental illness. In a study published last year, a team that included researchers affiliated with the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Yale University, and the National Institute of Mental Health assessed whether lifetime pot use was associated with an earlier onset of symptoms in schizophrenic patients. The researchers concluded: "Although cannabis use precedes the onset of illness in most patients, there was no significant association between onset of illness and [cannabis use] that was not accounted



Pot use won't make you crazy, but Drug War rhetoric will.

THE REEFER



for by demographic and clinical variables.”

The researchers also criticized the findings of previously published studies that purported to have uncovered a ‘pot trigger’ for mental illness. “Previous studies implicating cannabis use disorders in schizophrenia may need to more comprehensively assess the relationship between cannabis use disorders and schizophrenia.”

Unlike Earleywine, however, the researchers in this study were not convinced that a large percentage of schizophrenic patients are ‘self-medicating’ with pot. “We ... found that about half of our subjects discontinued the use of cannabis when their psychotic symptoms worsened,” said Dr. Serge Sevy of the Zucker Hillside Hospital, who led the study.

“(But) unfortunately, our study did not include questions about (patients’) reasons for using or discontinuing cannabis. I cannot provide the percentage of patients who discontinued cannabis use because of a worsening of psychosis ... (versus those who) became too impaired to obtain cannabis.” Regarding the serious claim, that juvenile marijuana use “is a cause of schizophrenia,” most experts on the subject—and most scientific reviews of the matter—disagree.

For example, the authors of a 2009 study published in *Schizophrenia Research* argued definitively that increased cannabis use by the public has not been followed by a proportional rise in diagnoses of schizophrenia or psychosis. Investigators at the Keele University Medical School in Britain compared trends in marijuana use and the incidence of schizophrenia in the United Kingdom from 1996 to 2005. They reported that the “incidence and prevalence of schizophrenia and psychoses were either stable or declining” during this period, even as cannabis use among the general population was on the rise.

“[T]he expected rise in diagnoses of schizophrenia and psychoses did not occur over a 10-year period,” the researchers concluded. “This study does not therefore support the specific causal link between cannabis use and incidence of psychotic disorders This concurs with other reports.”

The study’s results didn’t surprise Dr. Julie Holland, clinical assistant professor of psychiatry at the New York University School of Medicine and editor of *The Pot Book: A Complete Guide to Cannabis—Its Role in Medicine, Politics, Science, and Culture*. “The bottom line here is, no one knows exactly what causes schizophrenia, and scientists have been looking for decades,” she says. “The best explanation is a ‘stress diathesis’ model, where people have a genetic tendency toward schizophrenic illness and then something triggers its appearance. But unless you have the

genes, you won’t get the illness. Cannabis won’t change one’s genetic predisposition.”

Holland does caution that people with a predisposition toward schizophrenia “tend to have a stronger, more psychotic-like reaction to cannabis—but that is different from the idea that pot actually *gives* you schizophrenia, which is completely untrue.” As for the severity of those potential psychotic symptoms, Holland adds: “When the drug wears off, so do its effects. There is no lasting psychosis from pot.”

Dr. Lester Grinspoon, a retired associate professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, has studied both cannabis and schizophrenia for over 40 years and is the author of such books as

Schizophrenia: Psychopharmacology and Psychotherapy and *Marihuana: The Forbidden Medicine*. Echoing the views of Earleywine and Holland, he says, “Schizophrenia is largely a genetically determined disorder,” he explains. “However, not all people who have this genetic makeup develop the disorder. Recently, we have seen the publication of a number of papers that point the finger toward cannabis. Because my work in schizophrenia was first undertaken in the

‘UNLESS YOU HAVE THE GENES, YOU WON’T GET THE ILLNESS. CANNABIS WON’T CHANGE ONE’S GENETIC PREDISPOSITION.’

1960s, when marijuana was first observed to be increasingly widely used by young people, I was always careful to include the possibility that the patient had previously smoked marijuana in my history taking. I can’t tell you how many patients this involved, but it was certainly measured in the hundreds—and not once did I find that it could be considered causal. Its use, on a few occasions, seemed like an attempt to alter an insufferable internal environment, much as people with schizophrenia often do with alcohol and tobacco.”

Ultimately, however, even if a causal connection between cannabis use and mental illness were one day established, this finding alone would do little to support the blanket prohibition of pot. In fact, the policy implications of such a finding would be just the opposite: Such health risks should be seen as legitimate reasons not for prohibition, but for regulation. After all, there are numerous adverse health consequences associated with alcohol, and it’s precisely because of these effects that the product is legally regulated and its use restricted to specific consumers and settings.

Similarly, if there are actual mental-health risks associated with the use of cannabis by certain individuals, then a regulated system would best identify and educate these people so they could refrain from its use. Placed in this context, the fearmongering of the Drug War crowd regarding marijuana and mental illness does little to advance the cause of prohibition and instead provides yet more ammunition for its repeal. ✪

DAN SKYE



MARKET ANALYSIS

Kush narrowly beat out Diesel for the month's top pot spot after the two hallowed strains tied for the most submissions in June. Kush's popularity hasn't diminished in 2011, as the strain either finished first or tied for first every month this year except for January. Once again, Blue Dream was among the top five most submitted strains, achieving back-to-back top five finishes after making the cut back in June for the first time in six months. The top five submitted strains (with average price) were Kush (\$367), Diesel (\$357), Purps (\$350), Haze (\$388) and Blue Dream (\$432).

Index Watch: The US Price and Mids indices finished July up from their previous month's average (and close to their year-to-date averages). While the Kind Index essentially held steady, the Schwag Index took a hit, dropping \$25 from June.

HIGH TIMES wants to know what you're smoking. Submit your strain information, including location and price by the ounce, to thmq@hightimes.com.

Trans-High Market Quotations (THMQ) reports pot prices by the ounce, strain and location. To submit prices, go to the THMQ link at hightimes.com.

CURRENT US PRICE INDEX: **\$347** (last month: \$338; YTD: \$351)

CURRENT KIND INDEX (\$350+ PER OZ): **\$403** (\$406, \$416)

CURRENT MIDS INDEX (\$150-\$349 PER OZ): **\$277** (\$263, \$271)

CURRENT SCHWAG INDEX (\$1-\$149 PER OZ): **\$83** (\$108, \$105)

\$360 - Super Pineapple Haze

Las Vegas, NEVADA

"A creeper that will knock your socks off. Wait 10 minutes after one bowl and you'll be on the couch for hours ... guaranteed. Amazing!"

Blue Dream - \$380

Rockingham County, VIRGINIA

"Gorgeous light green buds with an unmistakable smell. Cured to perfection—these trees are some of the best I've ever tasted!"

LA Confidential - \$375

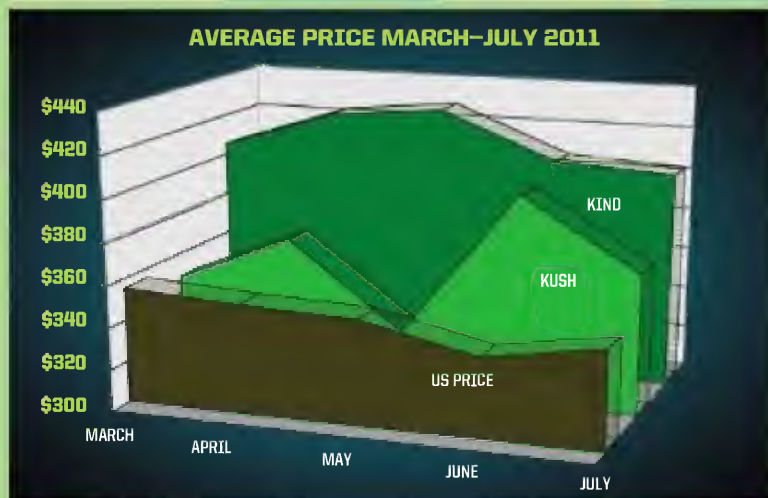
Milwaukee, WISCONSIN

"Nice darker-green-colored *indica* with dark amber hairs and just *blasted* with trichomes/crystals. A uniquely distinct smell with hints of musky fruit and pine; it's a more subdued odor, not too stinky. Great body buzz, but beware of couchlock if you smoke too much."

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
ALABAMA	Billingsley	Skywalker OG Kush Blue Dream	\$450 \$465
ALASKA	Fairbanks	Jack Herer	\$450
ARKANSAS	Paron	Romulan	\$300
CALIFORNIA	Sacramento San Diego	Sour Diesel Purple Bubba Kush	\$275 \$350
COLORADO	Denver	Blue Cheese Sour Kush	\$250 \$300
CONNECTICUT	New London Sterling	Sour Diesel Blue Dream Juicy Fruit	\$400 \$450 \$425
FLORIDA	Jacksonville	White Rhino Sour Purps	\$400 \$280
HAWAII	Hilo	White Russian	\$230
IOWA	Oes Moines	Viper	\$400
KENTUCKY	Louisville	Strawberry Cough	\$400
MARYLAND	Baltimore	AK-47	\$425
MASSACHUSETTS	Fitchburg	Headband Afghan Kush Granddaddy Purps	\$350 \$400 \$300
MICHIGAN	Detroit Holland	Sour Diesel White Rhino	\$500 \$400
NEBRASKA	Lincoln	Lemon Skunk Vanilla Kush	\$300 \$300
NEVADA	Las Vegas	Super Pineapple Haze	\$360
NEW JERSEY	Long Branch	Kush	\$420
NEW MEXICO	Albuquerque	Romulan White Russian Super Lemon Haze	\$380 \$350 \$390
NEW YORK	New York	Chemdog	\$560
OHIO	Cincinnati	Sour Diesel	\$375
OKLAHOMA	Tulsa	Super Silver Haze	\$400
OREGON	Eagle Creek	C-99 Blackberry	\$240 \$320
PENNSYLVANIA	Pittsburgh	Indoor	\$360
TENNESSEE	Memphis	OG Kush	\$400
VIRGINIA	Harrisonburg Rockingham County Rocky Mount	Purple Haze Blue Dream Lemon Kush	\$400 \$380 \$300
WASHINGTON	Seattle	Jack Herer AK-47	\$300 \$320
WEST VIRGINIA	Morgantown	Cheese NYC Diesel Kush Granddaddy Purps Jack Herer	\$370 \$370 \$380 \$370 \$400
WISCONSIN	Milwaukee	LA Confidential	\$375


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GWAR ON DRUGS

BY BOBBY BLACK

MORE THAN A MERE HEAVY METAL BAND, GWAR ARE LIVING GODS—INTERGALACTIC WARLORDS BANISHED TO EARTH MILLENNIA AGO, WHOSE SOLE MISSION IS THE TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF HUMANITY. OVER THE PAST QUARTER-CENTURY, THESE “SCUMDOGS OF THE UNIVERSE” AND THEIR ARMY OF SLAVES HAVE PILLAGED OUR PLANET, SPREADING THEIR GORY MESSAGE OF HATE AND DEVASTATION WITH ALBUMS LIKE *AMERICA MUST BE DESTROYED*, *WE KILL EVERYTHING* AND THEIR LATEST ATROCITY, *BLOODY PIT OF HORROR*. RECENTLY, I WAS GRANTED AN AUDIENCE WITH THE GROUP’S LEAD SINGER AND SUPREME COMMANDER, ODERUS URUNGUS. IT WAS ONLY DUE TO MY TRIBUTARY OFFERING OF THREE TONS OF MEGA MARTIAN HAZE THAT MY PUNY LIFE WAS SPARED TO BRING YOU THIS INTERVIEW ...

So you’re around 43 billion years old, is that correct?

Yes, in human years, that’s not a lot. I tried to measure it in dog years, but that’s not enough either, so let’s just say I’m fucking old.

I imagine you probably started smoking weed a really, really long time ago?

Yes—I actually started smoking weed before I was born. They had to ram Bic lighters into my mother’s vagina.

Is there marijuana on your home planet of Scumdogia?

My home planet is made out of marijuana! But there are also planets made of crack, LSD and heroin. You start out at the pot planet and then you work your way up.

How is the weed on Scumdogia different from Earth weed?

It’s awesome, but weed in outer space is not as good as it is on this planet. That’s probably the biggest reason that Gwar decided to stay on this planet: because the drugs are better on planet Earth.

Are you the only member of Gwar that smokes weed?

I don’t really smoke as much weed as I used to—I’m way more into crack. And I don’t smoke crack, I eat it. But yeah, I’m usually the only person smoking weed before the show—and that’s because I hog it all for myself.

What about the slaves?

Oh, they steal a lot of weed. They’ll grab the joints and roaches and the half-gnawed pill receptacles in my dripping fecal anal butter ... things like this. They basically get our leavings.

On your album *We Kill Everything*, you have a song entitled “Nitro Burning Funny Bong.” Is there really a 10-foot nitro-burning bong?

Yes, there is really a 10-foot nitro-burning funny bong, and every time we try to smoke it, it explodes. The bowl is really, really big—you waste a lot of pot with it.

Have you ever smoked from a human skull?

Oh, certainly. Blackbeard’s skull, actually ... made a pipe out of it.

Where exactly does cannabis fit into Gwar’s plan for galactic domination?

Well, cannabis is a gateway drug. Basically, we like to lure humans into getting high with weed, then get them addicted to crack, then get them on cocaine, then get them on LSD, then get them on heroin—and then I think they overdose at that point and die. Yes, it’s exactly what people say it is: a gateway to more horrible, nasty drugs that come along later—and they’re all great fun.





What are drug laws like on other planets? Are they strict?
On other planets, you go to jail if you *don't* do drugs; basically, it's illegal *not* to be high. That's one of the things that outer space has over the human race.

What's the craziest thing that you've ever snorted?
Hmm, let's see ... I snorted Ozzy's balls. I got one up each nostril.

Did that get you high?
Not at all, it was disgusting. It smelled like smegma and Sharon's spittle.

You've slaughtered numerous celebrities and world leaders over the years—who have you gutted lately?
Let's see, we've pretty much killed every president, we're working through Congress ... we were going to kill that lady from Arizona, but someone shot her in the face Um, I don't know—it would be a lot easier to ask who *haven't* we killed.

Who's the most challenging foe you've ever vanquished?
Well, there was Edna P. Grambo and the Morality Squad—they actually succeeded in sawing off my penis. It grew back though, thank God. I think the old one is still in police custody in some jail somewhere. But I'd have to say the biggest bastard that ever ruined my life is probably that

MY HOME PLANET IS MADE OUT OF MARIJUANA!



Gwar brutalizes another audience with their monstrous stage show.

stinking tyrant-lizard pet of mine, Gor Gor. We just brought him all the way to Australia and did some shows with him down there. Hopefully, he'll get lost and not be able to find his way home.

You've appeared on Fox News' Red Eye TV as an "Intergalactic correspondent" ... how did that happen?
I don't know how the hell that happened, but I haven't been on the show for about four months now. I'm not sure if they kicked me off because we impaled Sarah Palin on the last tour or what ... I don't think that went over so well with the people at Fox.

Which do you find more repulsive, your guitarist Flattus Maximus's gaseous emissions or the hot air that comes out of Glenn Beck's mouth?
Oh, by far the hot air that comes out of Glenn Beck's mouth. But also his ass—it stinks. It totally stinks over there ... that entire building reeks of excrement!



Guitarist Flattus Maximus astride the reptile Gor Gor.

Tell us a little about your latest album, *Bloody Pit of Horror*.
Well, then, *Bloody Pit of Horror* is kind of chronicling my plans to dig a hole, zombify the human race in this Bloody Pit of Horror, and re-create them as my elite, super-shock zombie army that we will invade outer space with. That's the plan, anyway, and it's working out pretty good—we're zombifying about 68 percent of the people that come to our shows. We need at least 300,000 zombies, though, if we're ever going to defeat Flobgrair 7. Now the album, *Bloody Pit of Horror*, is the cacophonous accompaniment to this fucking disaster that is the show. It's loud, it's obnoxious, it's tuned down to F sharp for some reason, and, uh, what can I say? It's noisy as fuck, and it sounds great!

Which cities and media outlets will your path of destruction take you to next?

We were all over the States, we were all over Europe, we just went back to Australia and New Zealand, Outer Mongolia, three days in Cleveland, back to Outer Mongolia, then we played on the surface of the sun. The weed just went up in flames. I think I'm in New York right now.

As an intergalactic war god, you've battled countless species in many different wars. Will you now join HIGH TIMES in our Drug War?

Yes! Who are we fighting?

The government.

Yes, we will destroy the government! This has been my plan for many years. Fuck them and their stupid laws! You should be allowed to get high on whatever the fuck you want. They're gonna send you to war, they're gonna ask you to blow up little kids, and then they're gonna tell you that you can't drink beer when you're 19 years old? *Fuck these people!*

Any final parting words of advice for our readers?

Well, for you readers of HIGH TIMES who actually *can* read, I would like to say, um, "Free Tommy Chong!" ... Is he still in jail?

No, I think he's out.

Oh, he's out. Well, uh, then all I can say is: Humans—you have an interesting opportunity in your life to take as many drugs as possible and listen to Gwar and come to our shows and kill yourself in our Bloody Pit of Horror. Now, you can go into it without being high, or you can go into it while being high—and I can say that while being high, it won't hurt so much. So definitely, before you come see Gwar, *get high!*

Thank you, Lord Oderus.
Thank you. Now let's get high!

For more punishment, visit Gwar.net—if you dare!

See Gwar's interview here.



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'I'm a real-deal weed nerd! I have a lot of knowledge about a lot of stuff that nobody who doesn't live in the state of California is ever gonna see. So if people talk shit about us writing a lot of songs about weed, it's like, "We lived that shit," and fuck it!'



Thomas Pridgen lights up while Viveca Hawkins is left holding the bag.

HERBAN WARRIORS

The Memorials took up without apology. By John Payne

It's not like they're smoking *all* the time, but the Memorials proudly proclaim that cannabis is a vital part of their creative lives, and they don't care who gives 'em grief for it. In fact, the members of this Bay Area band—former Mars Volta superdrummer Thomas Pridgen, guitarist Nick Brewer and soul-slingin' song stylist Viveca Hawkins—have a long and amiable history with the demon weed, which may be one reason why they're all about breaking the musical rules and doing something new ... real new.

Written and recorded in an Oakland studio in a mere seven days, the band's eponymous first album is a not-so-bizarre (after a few listens) hybrid of high-wire metallic/melodic rifferini, spectacularly spider-limbed techno-jazz drum pyrotechnics, and sweet and sassy hip-hoppy/R&B-laced vocals. This is a band that wants to give us not something we already know, but something that we ought to know—though at this point not even its members are sure where this thing might lead.

"We called the record *The Memorials* 'cause it was us testing the waters, putting out whatever we were thinking at the time," says Pridgen. "If you want to have a whiskey song, let's have a whiskey song; if you want a weed song, let's do a weed song. And we smoked a crapload of weed when we were making this record!"

Hawkins, who prior to this had handled backup-singer duties for the likes of Blackalicious and the Hieroglyphics crew, laid down her vocal tracks for the album while doing the 9-to-5 at Oaksterdam University, the cannabis-industry

training school in Oakland. Hawkins is a full-on activist who was trained and mentored by local medicinal growers in the Bay Area; she's worked at one of the four dispensaries in Oakland as a budtender, and then later as a classroom facilitator and in the certifying and testing departments.

"I'm a real-deal weed nerd!" Viveca says with a chuckle. "I have a lot of knowledge about a lot of stuff that nobody who doesn't live in the state of California is ever gonna see. So if people talk shit about us writing a lot of songs about weed, it's like, 'We lived *that* shit,' and fuck it!"

Musically and lyrically, the Memorials are all over the map. In songs like "Let's Party" and "Go to War," the band veers back and forth between light and darkness, the happy and the heavy, wherein shout-outs to the joys of bustin' loose share space with thoughtful ruminations on natural disasters and suicide bombers.

"Making this album was like testing the waters with each other, 'cause we'd never played a show together and were trying to figure out where we'd go as a band," Pridgen recalls. "Me and Nick had played hip-hop and rock shows together, but this music is so progressive that there's nothing to compare it to. So it was like, 'Let's just keep it *different* ... never something that you can perceive before it happens.'"

Pridgen credits his longstanding love of cannabis for enhancing his musical intuition and playing ability. "I'm from the Bay Area, and we've always smoked—since high school—and it's totally in the culture of where I live.

"I'm just totally high-strung, I have a shitload of energy, and weed makes it where I'm able to have people be around me when I'm creating. When we were making this record, we were going through a lotta things—we had a friend who passed away, we were breaking up with girlfriends, going through money problems, trying to make an album in seven days—and it was totally a stress reliever to be fucked up in the studio. I could focus on playing the music I wanted to create."

While many folks say that smoking cannabis spaces them out, musicians often talk about how much it helps them focus. "Sometimes I smoke and I immediately go and sit down at the drums," Pridgen says, "and I zone out and won't even know that I'm doing something fucking *sick!*"

Even as we speak, the Memorials are on the road, playing 30 American cities for their debut tour and spreading the word.

"Cannabis is a part of our lives—we grew up with it, and I'm not gonna stop talking about it," Hawkins says. "I don't believe Proposition 19 [California's 2010 cannabis-legalization bill] was particularly well-written. I totally believe in the fight to legalize, or at least decriminalize, cannabis throughout the country, because there's far too many people in prison for it.

"Cannabis is honestly and truly not harmful. People get sleepy off of it, people get hungry off of it, people get *well* from it, but people don't go out and crash their car 'cause they're too stoned," Hawkins adds with a laugh. "If they're too stoned, they're not even gonna *try* walking to their car." 🌿

High Times
Stash Award winner



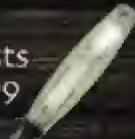
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DEAD AND BURNING

... And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead drop the *Tao of the Dead*. By John Fortunato

Snatching their protracted moniker from a Mayan ritual chant, ... And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead sprang forth in response to all those one-syllable '90s bands like Blur and Hum. Co-leaders Conrad Keely and Jason Reece, who were raised in Hawaii and became friends as teenagers, initially moved to the Seattle area to find success, but their separate bands failed to make it big during the dismal post-grunge doldrums. But when they combined their talents and relocated to the more fertile bohemian soil of Austin, TX, the regenerated brothers-in-arms soon gained a solid rep thanks to Trail of Dead's exuberant live shows.

Back in their youthful days as Hawaiian Islanders, Jason had turned Conrad on to the Replacements, the Descendents and Husker Dü, quintessential post-punk combos that would exert a strong influence on their future band's clamorous hard-rock assault.

Gaining underground prominence with 1999's *Madonna*, these metallurgic punk aesthetes found an even wider audience awaiting 2002's brilliant *Source Codes & Tags* (featuring the jolting weed anthem "Another Morning Stoner"). Each succeeding album garnered an increasingly positive response from loyal fans and humbled critics.

Though Jason decided to remain in Texas to raise his family, Conrad now lives in Brooklyn's Williamsburg section, the current hotbed of indie-rock respectability. Supplemental members have come and gone, but for Trail of Dead's epicurean seventh album, *Tao of the Dead*, seasoned bassist Autry Fulbright came aboard to play a pivotal role, providing funkier rhythms to broaden the promising manifestos bestowed on the masses by the band's 2009 album, *The Century of Self*.

The lanky, Afro-puffed Autry developed a friendship with Trail of Dead over the years, opening for them on tour with his previous band, Dragons of Zynth, as well as his new crew, Midnight Masses. Besides their musical bond, Conrad and Autry share a certain guided spirituality. Yet the differences in their religious upbringing couldn't have been more distinct: While Conrad grew up in an atmosphere of unfettered freedom, Autry was a disciplined, straight-edged churchgoer. While Conrad's father encouraged his youngest son to smoke marijuana as a sacramental awakening at the tender age of seven, Autry—a lapsed Jehovah's Witness and Los Angeles-bred Atlanta transplant—didn't take up until he was 24.

Autry's minister father, who died recently, used to watch *Woodstock*, joke about "the brown acid," and listen to prog-rockers Yes and Peter Gabriel, but otherwise remained a preacher in the strict Christian sense. Turned on to weed by a singer in a former band, Autry eventually stopped being a Jehovah's Witness and embarked on his herbal enlightenment.

"The first time I met Conrad, I'd never gotten drunk or high," Autry recalls. "But I always thought Trail of Dead was a gateway band to drugs—when I saw them play, that's what I thought it felt like to be on drugs."

As for the spiritually cultivated Conrad, he once ran afoul of punitive marijuana laws when he spent a few hours in a Texas holding tank for simple misdemeanor possession. It was on the way home from touring in 1998: Some local cops pulled the band over and, though they didn't charge anyone

for speeding, a drug-sniffing dog did find a few stems and seeds during an illegal search.

"I was too naïve for legal jargon," Conrad admits 13 years later. "It was in my backpack. The charges were dropped, but this small-town scam has affected foreign-tour travel. They've pulled

me in for customs hearings."

And as he knows all too well, things are even worse south of the border. While the band was recording *Tao of the*

Dead on a 22,000-acre pecan farm near Juarez, several of the studio personnel relayed horror stories from the Drug War in Mexico. One concerned a deep well where 50 dead bodies had been found; another was about a breakfast cook whose relatives had been kidnapped during the album's creation.

Conrad sees this as yet more evidence of the Drug War's destructive futility. He righteously argues in favor of legalizing all drugs, pointing out that "the US could restrict [it] to marijuana at the start—it's no worse than alcohol. Besides, both my brothers grew up around drugs, but neither has an interest in them."

As for medical marijuana, he adds: "If it could be proven that pot could help medicinally, then there are advantageous, concrete medical benefits. It could be prescribed to people with post-traumatic stress, because it helps you relax and take the edge off. But drug companies stand to lose business."

Autry concludes: "If there could be an end to laws against marijuana, we'd call that a long victory. We're not resting on our laurels. The most important thing is: Legalize marijuana!" ✨

I always thought Trail of Dead was a gateway band to drugs.'

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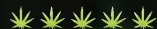
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THE BUD BIBLE

The Pot Book: A Complete Guide to Cannabis
 MAPS Special Edition
 Edited by Julie Holland, MD
 (Park Street Press)

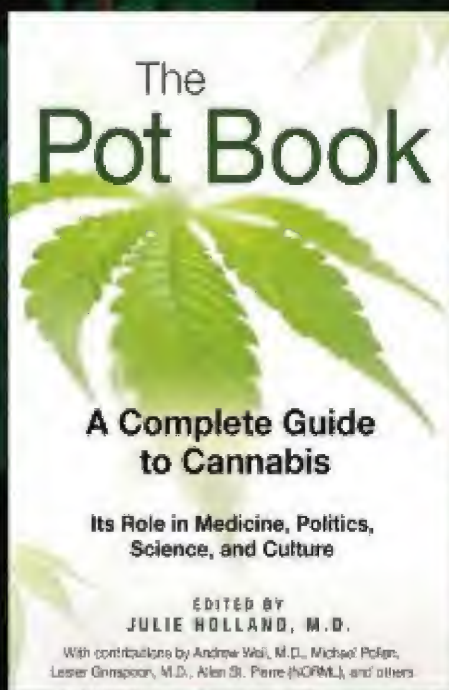


Seriously, dude, it's *the* pot book.

Encyclopedic in scope, this 576-page anthology is the most important research compilation on marijuana to hit the shelves since Jack Herer's breakthrough book, *The Emperor Wears No Clothes*.

Julie Holland is an assistant professor of psychiatry at the New York University School of Medicine and has worked extensively with the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS). Though she's a recognized expert on street drugs, especially MDMA, the field of marijuana research was fairly new ground for Holland—and she's eagerly covered it here with the precision of a true convert.

Filled to the brim with clear-headed examples, this book is the result of Holland's quest to put together a complete guide to cannabis that would bring top experts in various fields (50 contributors in all) to the table. Folks like Dr. Andrew Weil, Dr. Lester Grinspoon, Allen St. Pierre, Rick Doblin, HIGH TIMES' own Danny Danko, Marsha Rosenbaum and many more expound on their specialized areas. The topics here run the



or it could just as easily be utilized as a reference book to amp up your teatime-chat arsenal. Wanna debate the Drug War? Grab *The Pot Book* and arm yourself—it's an essential addition to any informed stoner's library. And best of all, it's not for profit: All proceeds go straight to funding the kind of cannabis research that the government won't be able to deny much longer. —Mary Ought Six

gamut: Some essays and interviews plumb the depths of the latest, greatest breakthroughs in science and medicine, while others take on the myths of reefer madness and dissect bad laws. Tommy Chong talks about the entrapment aspects of Operation Pipe Dream, which landed him in federal prison. Horrifying injustices that are all too real stand exposed, such as the fact that the simple charge of possessing a joint blocks access to student loans in 28 states and bars adoption rights in 38.

The Pot Book is laden with informative facts, graphs and stats, but it's also well tempered with humorous and pithy anecdotes and quotes, such as the pure common sense of Bill Hicks: "Why is marijuana against the law? It grows naturally upon our planet. Doesn't the idea of making nature against the law seem to you a bit ... unnatural?"

With short-attention-span-style chapters broken into five easily referenced parts, *The Pot Book* can be read straight through as a refresher course in all things having to do with pot culture,

Panda Bear

Tomboy
 (Paw Tracks)



Outside his willfully eccentric hipster art-rock outfit Animal Collective, Noah Lennox has developed a signature sound that certainly deserves its own regard. For while Animal Collective has consistently switched gears over the years, shifting from tribal freak-folk to electronic experimentation, Noah has doubled down on his reinterpretation of the Phil Spector "wall of sound" and Brian Wilson's West Coast choral prayers, as filtered through a post-techno sensibility. 2007's *Person Pitch* marked the apotheosis of this approach, while *Tomboy* seeks to go beyond that album's sample collages in favor of originally composed sonic loops.

One can easily get lost in Lennox's hallucinogenic layering. "Surfer's Hymn" continues in the Beach Boys vein by bringing in surf sounds, while "Benfica" uses crowd chants to evoke his adopted hometown of Lisbon and its soccer obsession. Ever the musical historian/revisionist, Lennox also proves a master of altering genre conventions to suit his tastes, whether it's building a repetitive two-note march over a hip-hop beat or evoking 1950s doowop in "Last Night at the Jetty." Consistent throughout this album is an overarching and overwhelming display of melodic force, so relentless that you'll feel Lennox is leading an army by the end of "Alsatian Darn." But these reverb-laden, repetitive tracks often end up resembling each other, and the album's finest moment, "Scheherazade," gains its power from its stark arrangement, built on a single piano chord and Lennox's spooky vocals. It makes one wonder what he could achieve if he scaled things back just a bit. —Justin Hampton



Dank 2.0: The Quest for the Very Best Marijuana Continues Subcool

(Quick Trading)



Cannabis breeder, author and longtime HIGH TIMES contributor Subcool revamps and updates his first book, *Dank*, with the brand-new *Dank 2.0*. The man responsible for such strains as Vortex (Top 10 Strain 2007 and winner of the 2010 HT Medical Cannabis Cup in San Francisco), Space Bomb (Top 10 Strain 2009), Flav (Top 10 Strain 2008) and Jack the Ripper (Top 10 Strain 2006) continues his quest to find the very best marijuana on Earth. Now six new strains join the original bunch for a total of over 40 unique varieties that taste like candy yet hit like a sledgehammer.

Featuring incredible photos by Subby himself accompanying vivid descriptions of both the strains' attributes and how he went about creating them, *Dank 2.0* explains the entire process of creating your own pot variety from start to finish. Learn how selections are made from large pools of breeding stock to produce the most potent, aromatic and tasty cannabis available. Rarely are these highly guarded trade secrets revealed, yet Subcool goes into great detail on his decision-making process and how it all went down.

From seed to bud, Sub describes and portrays the glorious ganja plants developed from his years of careful selection of elite genetics. Colorful and full of fascinating inside info, *Dank 2.0* takes the cannabis coffee-table book to the next level. Get *Dank*, get growing and get high! —Danny Danko



Aphrodisiac! The Sexual Secret of Marijuana

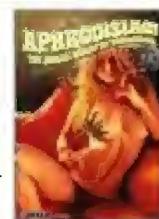
Directed by Dennis Van Zak

(Topar Films)



This bizarre DVD is a spliced-together collage on subjects like "Marijuana Filmmaking History" and "Serious 1970s Blown-Out Bikini Areas." The film uses retro stock footage and soft porn to weave together 77 minutes that play out like *Reefer Madness*'s dirty little stepbrother. *Aphrodisiac* has plenty of nudity, but no money shots. It *does* have a recipe for pot brownies right after a scene with John Holmes. Also to be found in this kaleidoscopic narrative is a news report showing that Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia of New York City was an early proponent of legalization and even had a report commissioned that concluded nobody has ever died from smoking pot.

The film shows a juxtaposition of human mating habits at traditional cocktail parties versus pot parties. At the traditional alcohol party, a drunk married female tries to get with a boozed-up male who is not her husband in the back of a Lincoln. The guy has a problem with wood. The film shows two minutes of this poor actress trying to blow her partner's flaccid member (the only thing missing is a sad *whann-whann* trombone sound effect). The film then shows a pot party where an attractive librarian has the best sex of her life after smoking herb with a dude. She explains in the voiceover that, on pot, "I start having an orgasm as soon as he puts it in." The secret is out now, ladies! All in all, *Aphrodisiac* is kind of funny, almost erotic and very informative. —Rob Cantrell



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THE COKE BROTHERS CONSPIRACY

Corporations do *not* have the same rights as people. By Paul Krassner

I was fortunate enough to accompany Ken Kesey and his psychedelic band of Merry Pranksters when the Grateful Dead played the Pyramids—and won—at a series of outdoor concerts in 1978. During that week, Kesey and I were dinner guests at the home of an Egyptian family in Cairo. Later, the men smoked hashish from a huge hookah while the women stayed in the kitchen. I grumbled to Kesey about this gender gap.

“When in Rome,” he replied, “do as the Egyptians do.”

A shy 6-year-old girl was peeking at us through a beaded curtain, and I waved to her. She waved back, giggled and disappeared. But I don’t have the slightest doubt that now, at the age of 39, she was among the countless protestors in Tahrir Square celebrating those early tremors of freedom. Although 95 percent of Egyptian women

have been the victims of forced clitoral circumcision, suddenly they were no longer considered second-class citizens—except, of course, for gang rapes.

On the same Sunday this past February that the revolution in Egypt was peaking, I found myself in Rancho Mirage, CA, at a rally against David and Charles Koch, the owners and operators of a privately held energy conglomerate known as Koch Industries (pronounced “coke,” which is why I call them the Coke Brothers. A number of demonstrators picked up on the theme as well: Many of their placards featured the Coca-Cola logo on a red background with a slash through it and the slogan “Everything goes better *without* Koch”).

The multibillionaire Coke Brothers—fundors and manipulators of the Tea Party as well as oil merchants opposed to the reduction of air pollution, claiming that smog prevents skin cancer—were now hosting a secret meeting of 200 wealthy elitists at the Rancho Las Palmas Resort, heavily guarded by 60 Riverside County sheriff’s deputies in riot gear. (Incidentally, the sheriff is actually named Stan Sniff.)

The Coke Brothers were among the beneficiaries of a 2009 Supreme Court decision confirming the “personhood” of corporations, which gave them the same constitutional rights as US citizens (such as the right to clandestinely support conservative politicians without any accountability), as well as the court’s 2010 ruling that corpo-

rations can spend unlimited amounts on campaign advertising.

The anti-Coke Brothers demonstration was being held in a parking lot across the street from the resort. It was emceed by Jim Hightower, the author of *Swim Against the Current: Even a Dead Fish Can Go With the Flow*. “These justices are as confused as goats on AstroTurf!” Hightower told the audience of 1,000. “We need to pass a constitutional amendment that says a corporation does *not* have the rights of a person.”

Weeks later, the mystery behind the Coke Brothers’ private get-together would be revealed, linking them to controversial Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker.

Koch Industries had been the largest corporate contributor to his campaign, so it’s no surprise that Walker was busy trying to fulfill his owners’ desire to destroy



The multibillionaire Coke Brothers are opposed to the reduction of air pollution, claiming that smog prevents skin cancer.

the American labor movement. (In fact, Americans for Prosperity—a Coke Brothers front group—launched a website that propagandizes against *all* collective bargaining.)

The infamous political prank call to Walker by a writer for the *Buffalo Beast* posing as David Koch inadvertently disclosed the evil mindset that the puppet shares with his puppet masters. Fake David Koch said: “We’ll back you any way we can. But what we were thinking about the crowd was, uh, was planting some troublemakers.” The Wisconsin governor admitted, “We thought about that,” but added that he was afraid the plan might backfire.

At the protest rally, I went backstage to chat with Jim Hightower. He’d flown in from Texas for the event and was energized by the spirit of this demonstration.

“It ain’t Egypt, though,” I observed.

“Not exactly,” he chuckled.

The Egyptian people want to have regular elections, as do we in the U.S.—as epitomized by our sexist slogan “One man, one vote.” Unfortunately, when George W. Bush defeated Al Gore in the contentious 2000 presidential election, that “one man” happened to be Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. ✨

Visit HT’s Brain Damage Control columnist at paulkrassner.com and check out his anthology, *Pot Stories for the Soul—the only book that advises you to lick the lower right-hand corner of page 23*.



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HIGH TIMES UNSIGNED BAND OF THE MONTH SKEETONES

Skeetones are bringing a new generation of music to the Midwest's sonic landscape. Though programmed tracks lay the foundation for the band's songwriting, the music comes to life during their energetic performances. From chopping a cappella samples to wobbling bass lines, Skeetones create on-the-fly remixes of their own songs without using a single loop or backing track.

The band continues to emphasize their live take on sounds like acid house, hip-hop, downtempo and dubstep, all while keeping sight of their multi-instrumental and improvisational foundations. Skeetones have shared the stage throughout the Midwest with bands like Pnuma Trio, Umphrey's McGee, Flying Lotus, the Macpodz, Big Gigantic and Papadosio, and their debut full-length album was released in March 2011.

This cultivated ensemble continues to accomplish the seemingly impossible task of entertaining the thinking mind and dancing feet alike—leaving listeners to reformulate their concept of live electronic music.

For more info on Skeetones, including audio samples and tour dates, head to hightimes.com/skeetones.

MISS JULY
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BY BOBBY BLACK

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TARTUKAN DEATH WEED

and sparkles. The club crowds spilled out onto the sidewalks, past the velvet ropes and onto the curb, and the bass thud of what lay within Dopplered at us as we cruised by in the light green 1988 Rolls limo that I like to call the Bong-mobile. My host, the notorious Gnomeo who calls himself Bong Rip, just soaked it all in and smiled.

"Another beer, Bobby?" he asked.

Bong Rip first made a name for himself as the lead singer and drummer of Marijuana the Band, but it's as the host of Bong TV Live—the 18-cam interactive chat and interview show he streams daily from 4:20 p.m. till 4:20



Bobby and Bong Rip paint the town green.

a.m.—that he achieved true stoner stardom. Since 2006, he and his partner/driver Smokey have been hot-boxing this cheeba chariot up and down the boulevards and byways of Cali, covering all the major marijuana events and interviewing celeb stoners such as Jack Herer, members of the Kottonmouth Kings and the *Jackass* crew, and even Paris Hilton. For years now, he's been inviting me to come out for a spin and be a guest—and now, I was finally taking him up on the offer.

"When Bobby Black comes to town, he does it like James Brown!" Bong Rip proclaimed to his audience. "Hardest-working man in the biz!" Bong Rip is also the creator and leader of his very own "Stoner Army World Wide," a military-style ranking system he assigns to all of the nearly one million fans and friends of the show. Before I'd even set foot in the limo, he wasted no time in conferring upon me the field rank of general.

"You know what people really want to know?" Bong Rip asked, turning to the camera. "What does Bobby Black like to smoke! What's your favorite strain?"

"Anything from Chemdog—he's the man," I replied. "I'm not just talking about the *strain* Chemdog, I'm saying the *real dude* Chemdog, who invented the strain. He's a master grower."

"Best weed in the world," added my girl Vegas.

"No ... *this* is the best weed in the world," Bong Rip retorted as he opened a secret compartment and dug out a small jar. "Have you ever had ... *Tartukan Death Weed*?" In all my years at HT, I thought I'd seen and smoked it all—but *Tartukan Death Weed*? Much to my embarrassment, I'd never heard of this bizarre-sounding strain.

"You will never smoke anything like this ever," Bong Rip continued as he packed it into a bowl. "I was first introduced to it by an exotic pot collector called Dr. Strainlove—he's the

Apparently, the legend goes something like this: Somewhere off the southern coast of Asia lies a tiny tropical-island paradise untouched by the modern world (at least since the 14th century) known as Tartuka. The island's inhabitants don't have any conveniences or comforts like electricity or running water—what they do have

is a huge jungle chock-full of killer marijuana. For hundreds of years, the Tartukans have embraced the Hererian ideal, using cannabis for medicine, food and textiles. But there was one strain so potent, so zombifying, that it was used for only one purpose: It's administered to criminals

before execution, simultaneously rendering them docile for the guards to handle and preparing them spiritually for the transition into the next world. Thus, it earned the rather menacing moniker of the "Death Weed." And while very few outsiders have ever even heard of this lost paradise, one intrepid explorer named Shane Quinn supposedly visited it and returned with the seeds for this exceptional strain, which Dr. Strainlove then managed to get a hold of and now secretly cultivates.

I was speechless. Could this tall tale possibly be true? Was there really such a strain, such an island? Was the herb before me really that strain? And if so, what would it do to me?

"Should I be afraid of this weed?" I asked as I lifted the pipe to my lips.

"Ain't got nothing like this on the East Coast, I promise you," Bong Rip said with a devious grin. I fired it up and took a nice, deep hit. It hit me like ton of bricks, and as a goof, I pretended to choke and pass out.

"Holy shit, you guys—he's gonna die right here in my limo!" Bong Rip panicked jokingly. "Oh, no ... *I killed Bobby Black!*"

Of course, it didn't zombify me or induce any near-death experiences—but it did taste pretty damn good, and it made me so late for the show I was headed to that I totally missed the band I'd gone to see, so I guess it's fair to say it's some pretty "killer herb." Which got me to thinking: As a pot journalist and general in the Stoner Army, perhaps I should head up an expedition to locate the island of Tartuka, make contact with its inhabitants, and glean their genetic secrets for myself. Of course, I'd never undertake such a long and perilous journey without a loyal crew of red-eye Jedis to back me up. Any volunteers? ✨

See Bobby's appearance and other great Bong TV videos at bongtvlive.com.

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SORRY MUHN... BUT YER 'BOUT 20 YEARS TOO LATE!

YUH KNOW WHO'S GOT LOTSA UNADULTERATED URINE?

GREAT IDEA, LANGSTON! THANKS!

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YIKES!

PHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE!

Happy Doodle's HEAD SHOP

HEY! THEY'LL HAVE WHAT I NEED!

I'LL GIVE YA EACH 10 BUCKS TO PEE IN THIS CLIP!

GUESS I DIDN'T THINK THAT ONE ALL THE WAY THRU!

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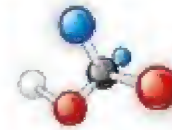
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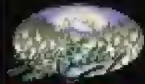
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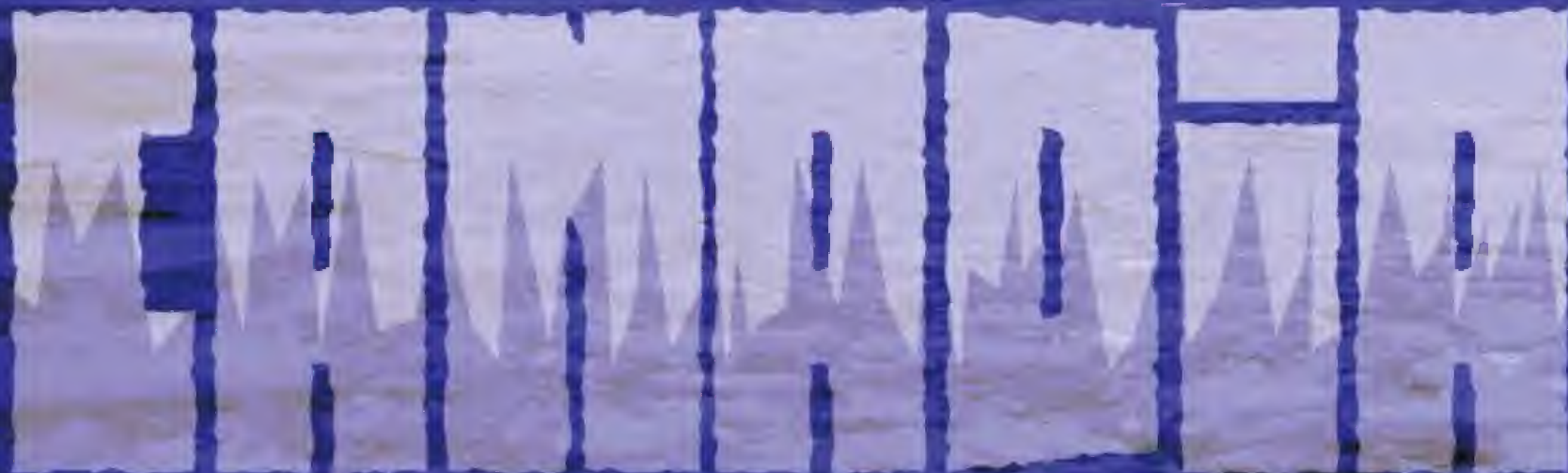
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Alien OG from Cali Connection grows strong in an Ontario garden.

A decade ago, Canadians were a lot happier: Their government seemed to be on the brink of decriminalizing marijuana, and it was also instituting a nationwide program to meet the needs of med-pot patients. But that progress has become mired in bureaucracy and political grandstanding.

Story & photos by Dan Skye





Canadian medical growers can only grow for two patients.

In a three-story townhouse in downtown Toronto, CALM presides. CALM is Toronto's first medical-marijuana "club," established in 1996 and second in size only to the B.C. Compassion Club of Vancouver. The acronym stands for "Cannabis As Living Medicine"—something to which the 3,000-plus members can readily attest. CALM provides a variety of Canada's best medicinal strains to those in need. Nothing about the CALM facility would suggest a shred of illegal dealing—but, unfortunately, every move it makes on behalf of Canadian citizens who need medical cannabis is fraught with peril these days.

Ten years ago, Canada became the first nation on Earth to allow the legal possession of medicinal marijuana. Health Canada, the federal agency in charge of the health-care system, oversees and regulates the medical-marijuana program and approves each license to possess cannabis. Licensed users can have their prescription filled by growing their own

small supply of marijuana, finding a designated grower (also licensed by the government) or buying their cannabis directly from Health Canada, which grows it in government gardens. However, in the 10 years that Health Canada has been in charge of the system, Canadians' access to medical marijuana has been subject to a bungling and opaque bureaucracy.

According to Health Canada's January statistics, 4,884 citizens of Canada had secured licenses to possess medical cannabis. For those applying for a license, the wait can be as long as six months; the backlog of applications is mountainous, and applications are commonly lost. Furthermore, Canadian doctors have consistently been reluctant to put their names on the dotted line when a patient asks for a med-pot recommendation. Insurance and pharmaceutical companies have both discouraged doctors from endorsing cannabis medicine, as have some medical organizations themselves—such as the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan, which last year advised doctors not to prescribe marijuana. To make matters worse, patients who have been able to find doctors willing to recommend cannabis are often charged fees exceeding \$1,000. So in the entire province, only 79 Canadians are licensed to possess medical pot. In Manitoba, which has a population of 1.2 million, a grand total of 63 people are licensed.

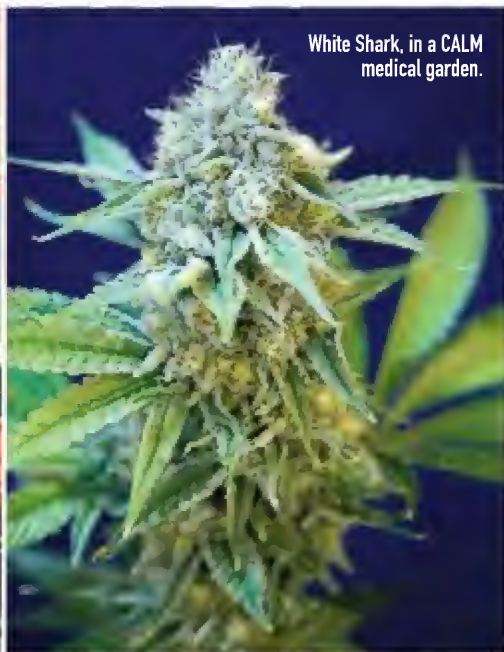
The Toronto skyline at dusk.



CANNABIS CLUBS



Neev Tapiero, director of CALM.



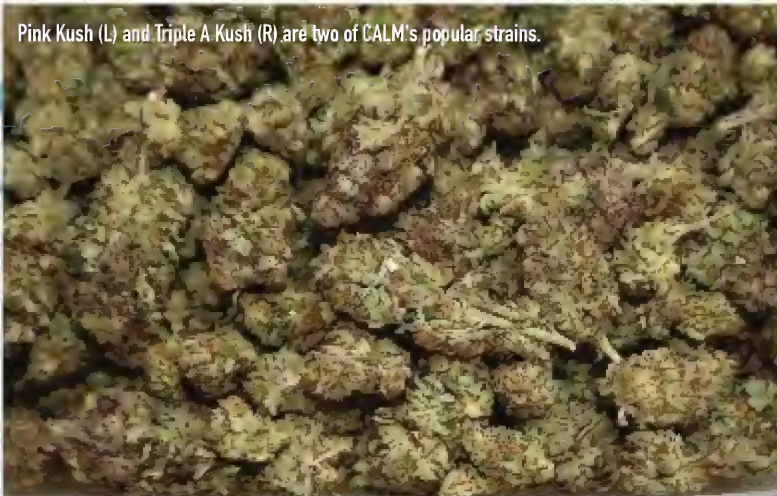
White Shark, in a CALM medical garden.



White Shark, ready for sale to patients.



Potent honey oil is outstanding medicine.



Pink Kush (L) and Triple A Kush (R) are two of CALM's popular strains.



smoke, which seems somewhat improbable given that CALM's headquarters is a private, stand-alone building on a side street, with ultra-vigilant, security-conscious staffers watching the premises on video monitors.

The Medical Cannabis Club of nearby Guelph, Ontario, was also raided. Its staff now faces trafficking and possession charges, even though it has been operating openly for three years. Also last year, the North Side Compassion Club of Vancouver Island in BC, which can boast of 10

years of business in different locations, suffered the same fate.

Why is this happening now? Many people cite increased pressure from the federal government under the administration of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who took office in 2006. Any complaint, no matter how dubious, can give the police a pretext for raiding a club. Also, since Health Canada has been so deficient in its operation of the medical-marijuana program, many clubs will accept a doctor's written recommendation if the patient hasn't been able to secure a license, which is technically illegal. So add that to the list of charges a club can face if a raid occurs.

Currently, the med-pot community is rightly wondering if the pendulum has swung in a negative direction. For Ron Marzel, the attorney representing Neev Tapiero and CALM, the upcoming courtroom battles are an opportunity to reverse the pendulum's swing.

"Health Canada has messed up the medical program for patients for so long," he says, "establishing that fact in court will be easy to do." So it isn't logical to conclude that when a government agency neglects providing medicine to sick people for 10+ years, those patients will have no recourse but to find their own medicine?

'The Canadian government has ignored its duty not once, not twice, not three times, but countless numerous times over many, many years!'

As for legal medical growing, Health Canada's mismanagement has given the cannabis black market room to expand. At the outset of the program, the law stated that legal growers could grow for themselves and one other patient. But the system was clearly unworkable: Finding a legal, proficient grower isn't easy for everyone. Thirty-seven percent of all of the registered patients live in communities of less than 5,000 people. Secondly, there are only about 3,500 licensed legal medical growers nationwide.

To address these problems, changes were enacted. Well, not really: The guidelines were tweaked to allow growers to provide for not one, but two medical patients—which has fundamentally done nothing to alleviate the problem of providing medicine to patients in need.

The only other legal alternative for patients is to rely on Health Canada's government-grown pot as a source of medicine. Unfortunately, there's only one strain available, and when patients ask what it is, they are told: "*Cannabis sativa*." Patients complain that this generic, government-issued cannabis rarely arrives on time. Even worse, it's of poor quality, lacking potency, uncured, and rank in appearance and smell.

So what are Canada's medical-marijuana pa-

tients to do? Unfortunately, their best options cross the line into criminality: They can either patronize unlicensed growers or join a club—both of which are illegal.

In urban areas, compassion clubs have largely been tolerated as long as they operate responsibly. Cities usually have bigger fish to fry, and raiding medical-marijuana clubs that provide medicine to sick people generally isn't the best source of PR for the local police. The clubs that operate successfully have often been doing so openly for years and are careful to pay the proper Canadian taxes on their businesses. But, lately, dispensary raids have increased.

"According to the government, everything about us is illegal," says Neev Tapiero, the founder and director of CALM.

Neev is well known to Toronto officials as the force behind the annual Toronto Freedom Rally, which draws 20,000 pot fans annually to the city. He's hardly low-profile, and the city has known for years that CALM exists. Still, he says, "raids are always on my mind."

And with good reason: CALM was raided twice in the last year, in March and August. The cops cited "community complaints" as the impetus for the raids: Someone reported the smell of pot

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Richie grabs seeds merchandise for Ontario Seed Bank customers.



Hash can also be purchased over the counter.

Richie says. "And we pay our taxes to the nickel."

Indeed, many believe that collecting taxes may be the government's best role in creating a framework for cannabis regulation that is similar to the sale of alcohol and tobacco. According to Evan Wood, the founder of the Vancouver-based International Centre for Science in Drug Policy, speaking in an interview with *The Georgia Strait*: "The alternative to prohibition is not full, free legalization—easy access to drugs—but, rather, strict regulatory tools in a legal framework like age restrictions, operating hours, warning labels on things, taxation. These are actually compatible with not only increasing or creating tax revenue for governments, but also decreasing the availability of drugs to young people."

But that isn't the goal of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, leader of the Conservative Party, who last year told a YouTube audience: "I understand that people defend the use of drugs, but that said, I think I've been very fortunate to live a drug-free life, and I don't meet many people who've led a drug-free life who regret it ... met a lot of people who *haven't* who've regretted it. So this is something that we want to encourage, obviously, for our children—for everybody's children."

In other words, Harper is saying, "Be like me—or else."

To that end, the Conservative Party has crafted a loathsome piece of legislation known as

And when you factor in to consideration that Health Canada has not even complied with the court's own orders and has essentially flouted the law, doesn't it call in to question the government's right to impose penalties for marijuana generally?"

Marzel views Health Canada's dismal record as a legitimate chance at striking down the criminal law against possession. "The courts have said in the past that the government is entitled to criminalize cannabis," he continues. "But the courts have also said that the government's right to criminalize is subject to a duty to ensure that sick people get their medicine. So now you have a situation where the Canadian government has ignored its duty not once, not twice, not three times, but countless numerous times over many, many years! You have thousands of people who have had issues with police over medical marijuana because the program has been so badly run. There has to come a point when the court will say 'enough is enough: If the government can't do what we've ordered them to do for medical patients, it's about time to consider whether we should allow the government to have this power.'

"Tapiero's case opens up the opportunity for us to make that argument. By way of simple analogy, if the landlord isn't looking after the maintenance of the property," Marzel concludes, "then they shouldn't be allowed to enforce rules that stand in the way of tenants taking self-help measures to manage the property."

Ironically, despite the legal morass, compassion clubs and other "illegal" entities are still subject to taxation. Late last year, agents of the Canadian Revenue Agency showed up at the B.C. Compassion Club in Vancouver, which serves 6,000 members. The CRA wanted the names of

The Conservative Party has crafted a loathsome piece of legislation known as Bill S-10, an anti-drug bill that would cost the nation up to \$13 billion

growers so it could collect taxes on their earnings. But in order to serve its members—and thanks to the ineptitude of Health Canada—the club relies on growers who are often not licensed. Necessarily, they stay undercover.

The B.C. Compassion Club was reticent, concerned about exposing its growers to the scrutiny of the law. For its part, the CRA insists that those who owe the government taxes from growing pot needn't worry; that information is kept confidential and cannot be passed on to police. "Our concern is that individuals report their income regardless of its source," a CRA spokesperson said. The impasse is currently being mediated.

Another, even quirkier fluke of Canadian law is that cannabis-seed shops flourish across the land. Canadians can legally walk into a shop and purchase seeds for top cannabis strains over the counter. Why? According to Canadian law, it's the cannabis plant itself—as well as "its preparations, derivatives and similar synthetic preparations"—that's being prohibited, not seeds. In other words, you can buy them, but you can't grow them.

The Ontario Seed Bank operates quietly on the outskirts of Toronto and deals with a host of customers on a daily basis. Richie, the owner, admits that the seed business is a "behind-the-scenes" undertaking requiring that supplies remain in stock and the newest, hottest strains are available. He'll even give growing advice when he can. "We follow the law, no matter how convoluted it may be,"

Bill S-10, an anti-drug bill that would cost the nation up to \$13 billion, authorize a slew of new prisons to house low-level offenders, create mandatory-minimum sentences, and make no distinction between a garden of six plants and a grow op of 200. In other words, it's a "zero tolerance" bill modeled on the failed policies of the US, and it has already been passed in the Conservative-controlled Senate. The opposition Liberal Party vows to stand tough against it.

Still, that question of the pendulum remains. It may not be swinging in a negative direction; it may be just standing still. If a poll released by the Vancouver-based Angus Reid public-opinion research group is to be believed, 50 percent of Canadians support the legalization of marijuana; unfortunately, that number stood at 53 percent last year. Even more unfortunately, 64 percent approve of mandatory-minimum prison sentences and stiff fines for large-scale marijuana growers and dealers.

"Your average Canadian is frustrated about the drug problem, and that makes it politically popular to propose tough-on-crime measures," Wood says. "But the reality of the situation is, the \$5 billion that they're proposing to spend on new prisons will do nothing to improve community health and safety."

If Canada does decide to follow the USA's example, the nation can expect similar results: an ever-ballooning Drug War budget, an increasing number of its citizens in prison, and a population that thoroughly mistrusts its own government. ✦

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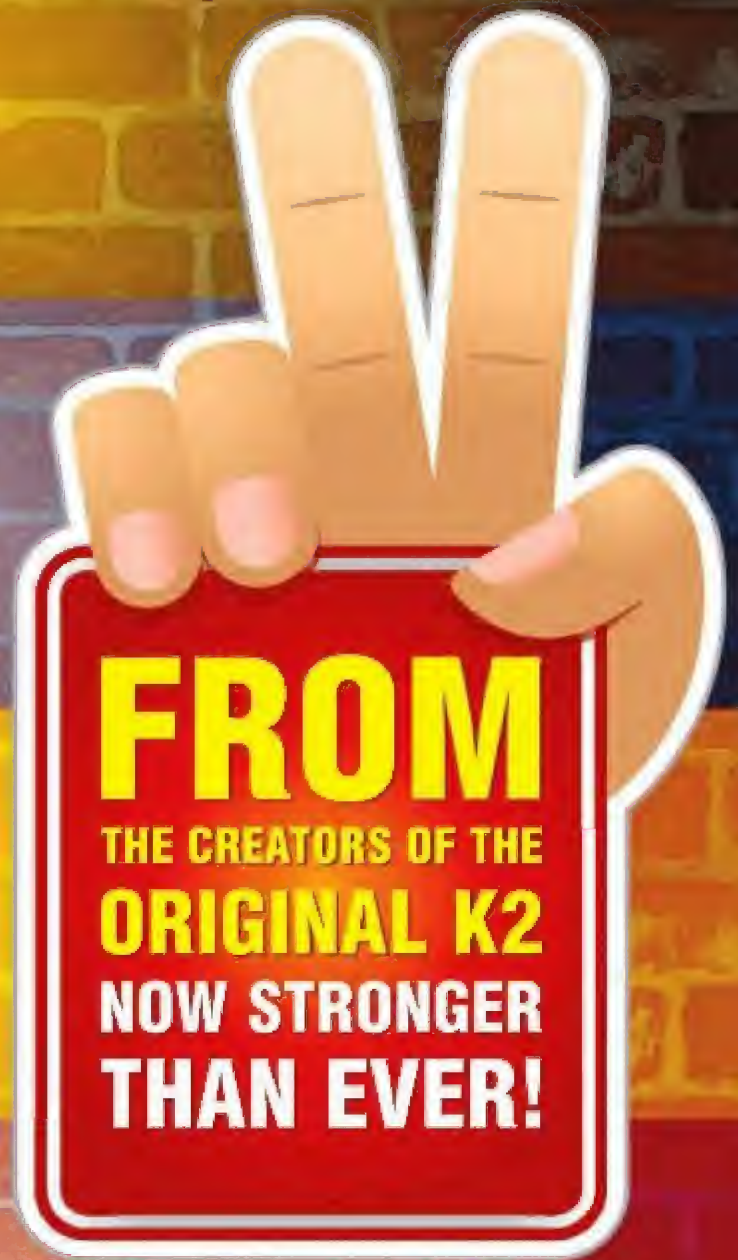
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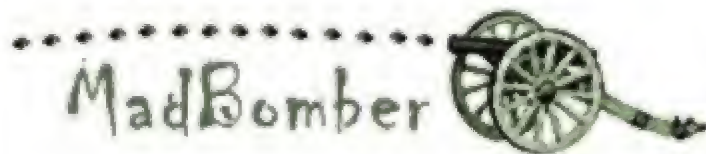
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VERTICAL GROWING IN

With grams per watt at a premium due to a limited growroom footprint, one Canadian 'super-garden' achieved bigger yields in smaller spaces by rising up and going vertical. Story & photos by Erik Biksa

GROW UP FOR BIGGER HARVESTS

In this high-output marijuana facility, we get a glimpse into the future of serious medical-bud production in a world where linear space in densely populated areas is fast becoming a limiting factor. The yields of medicinal-grade buds produced in this Canadian garden per watt of electricity consumed are unrivaled by conventional growing methods, as are the plant numbers—even when compared to techniques such as “Sea of Green” (SOG) growing. The answer to the question of how to get bigger yields of buds in shrinking spaces is here, and, simply put, it's to get even higher while cultivating!

That's right, we're talking about *vertical* marijuana-growing techniques. Though marijuana plants already grow and branch vertically on their own, the grower has little control over how tightly spaced the branches are in regard to one another, as plant-growth patterns tend to be on the random side. With controlled vertical production (CVP) methods, individual plants are relatively short in stature at harvest—typically no more than 16 inches tall.

Each plant in a CVP system exclusively produces a “top bud,” with little space wasted on room for stem growth—just one big, sticky and dense bud-sicle. Now array this solid bud growth in an equidistant arrangement around the light source, leaving only enough space to fit the next plant in the arrangement, and you can carpet your way to bigger yields. At harvest time, each vertical grow station in the flowering portion of the facility is a solid cylinder of bud wrapped around air-cooled high-intensity discharge (HID) crop lighting.

FARMING IN A NEW DIMENSION

Here, every *cubic inch* contributes to the final yield, as opposed to conventional linear-oriented gardens, which are really taking more of a *square-inch* approach. The difference is that a whole other dimension is being contributed to the total harvest.

On average, this vertical growing design is achieving yields of nearly 4 pounds of very high-quality medical marijuana per 1,000 watts of HID lighting used. In this particular installation, there are several growing stations that are constantly in flower, with each station running three 1,000-watt lamps. So for every 5' x 5' footprint occupied by one of these vertical grow stations, the yield is nearly 12 pounds of high-grade medical marijuana every two months. All of this is accomplished in a fraction of the space and with significantly less electrical consumption than conventional medical-marijuana growing operations. Not only is this fa-



Vertical lighting allows every single lumen to be used to grow plants.

cility capable of significant production, but it's operated very efficiently, requiring no outside help other than that of the dedicated cooperators.

The facility size—especially relative to the number of plants it contains—is small in terms of floor space. The production-output efficiency here ranks among the highest in the world of any medical-marijuana grow op, as does the quality of the medicine created.

COLAS ONLY

Every part of the plant harvested here is top bud—and as all experienced growers and tokers know,

the highest-quality buds are usually harvested at the top of the plant canopy. So not only is the yield exceptionally high in terms of efficient use of space and electricity, but medicine being produced here has a much more consistent quality and potency.

The engineers and operators of this facility have allowed a rare glimpse into the production model they've developed over the course of several years together. Between them, these guys have nearly 50 years of combined growing experience, all of it on the cutting edge of industrial marijuana production. Their system is the amazing culmination of all those years of living and learning.

CANADA



This wall of nugs is achieved by inducing flowering shortly after clones have rooted.



This rooted cutting is ready to put into the vertical growing system.

Trays of clones should be kept warm and humid for proper rooting.



RAPID CLONING

Each vertical flowering station holds nearly 200 plants, and the turn-around time for each is very, very fast. This means that new cuttings need to be produced continuously and in large numbers. Here we find a slightly less conventional solution to this common growing limitation.

Instead of using one very large mother plant or just a few—which may require several weeks for the new branches to produce sufficiently after harvesting donor material for rooted cuttings—this operation utilizes relatively large numbers of significantly smaller mother plants. Instead of a mother plant being grown in a 6-gallon container, here it's grown in a 6-inch container—but there are racks and racks of these smaller mother plants in the same-size area where we would typically find fewer but larger specimens.

One of the operators was, at one time in the past, professionally producing nearly 10,000 cuttings per month for a separate venture. Needless to say, these guys have learned a thing or two about creating higher volumes of rooted cuttings in less time. As some experienced gardeners have observed, older plants tend to be more resilient, but this comes at the cost of being less vigorous. The woodier consistency in larger and older mother plants lends itself to prolonged rooting periods, compared to the softer, more vigorously growing shoots of younger plants.

Another significant advantage of the smaller-stature mother-plant production system is that the cuttings tend to behave more consistently in the grow cycle that follows. Because they're all removed at the same height on the plant, the cuttings root and grow at the same rate. Having even growth in very high-density plantings (such as the ones used in this vertical gardening facility) is a critical factor in achieving high yields and consistent crop quality. If growth rates are uneven, some plants will quickly shade others, resulting in a much smaller harvest per light.

In keeping with the mandate for an ultra-high level of efficiency, a large number of cuttings are harvested and processed in a relatively small footprint, making this setup at least three to four times more efficient than standard methods for producing mother plants and cuttings.



Vegetating bonsai motherplants are lit by banks of fluorescent T5 lighting.

PROPAGATION STATION

There is a two-phase propagation system that runs alongside mother-plant production. Cuttings are first rooted in custom rockwool plugs. After sufficient roots have developed, the rockwool plugs are inserted into plastic collars that will eventually be inserted into the vertical columns. While in these plastic collars, the cuttings are pre-vegged. This means that before they undergo intensive vegetative-growing conditions, the freshly rooted cuttings experience an intermediate phase of growth, thereby reducing stress on the young plants and ultimately resulting in plants that yield bigger. Including rooting and pre-vegging, this phase may last from 10 to 21 days, depending on the strain and the rate at which the plants will be harvested in the flowering stations.

After the pre-veg phase is completed, the young plants are about 6 inches tall and have gained a few sets of new leaves. They are then transplanted into the tubes that act as vertical growing columns. The columns are relatively smaller in diameter and are filled with hydroton pellets (a.k.a. grow rocks). This helps to anchor the plants, giving their roots something to hold onto when the tops of the plants get heavy later on in the flowering stage. It also helps to keep the root systems compact, which is extremely important when working with very high planting densities.



A custom-built propagation bench ensures that seeds pop properly.

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VEG OUT

The veg room is a sight to behold at this facility: It's a solid wall running a considerable length and covered with young cannabis plants from top to bottom. The plants are illuminated for growth with vertically hung fluorescent T5 lamps connected to moveable tracks on a top rail; this allows the light panels to be slid aside for access to the plants, which are arranged in vertical tubes. Depending on the strain, some plants are topped when very small to encourage the development of three to five tops rather than a single one. This means even higher bud numbers per lamp, really pushing the grow to the limit.

The plants may spend anywhere from just a few days to a couple of weeks in this vegetative area. Along the wall, there are different plantings of vertical columns. Several vertical columns make up a flowering station, arranged at a 5-foot diameter around the vertical, air-cooled HID lamps in the flowering room. Every aspect of this medical-marijuana grow is run like a high-efficiency factory in order to produce both quality and quantity simultaneously.

Common problems like spider mites, thrips and so forth are completely avoided in this facility, which runs as a closed loop with no outside introductions. The environment is very sanitary and has a high degree of controllability, which means that no harmful pesticides are sprayed or required—thereby creating truly medicinal-grade buds.

TIME TO FLOWER

Once the plants have attained some more stature and branching and have anchored their roots well in the hydroton in the vertical columns, they're ready for flowering. The tubes will go from their former vertical/linear arrangement in the veg room into circular arrangements to create the flowering stations in another area of this facility. The tubes are suspended in a circular, concentric arrangement equidistant from the three 1,000-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) lamps hung vertically in the center of the space.

The increase in red spectrum supplied by the HPS lighting helps promote a strong flowering response in the plants, which have spent their vegetative stage under blue-rich full-spectrum fluorescent lighting. The operators of the facility are planning an upgrade to their low-frequency digital HID ballasts, in part to maximize the light intensity delivered per watt of electricity used, but also to avoid radio-frequency interference issues that come from using common digital HID ballast systems.

To optimize the light levels being delivered to the individual plants in the HPS-illuminated flowering room, each of the circular, vertically arranged tubes is suspended in one of three adjustable concentric



Vertical fluorescent T5 lights keep plants short and stocky during their vegetation stage.



These growers use a light meter to maximize efficiency.

circles surrounding the vertically positioned lamps. This gives a level of adjustability in plant-to-lamp distances, because the vertical, air-cooled HPS lamps must remain stationary. Most vertical gardens do not allow for adjusting lamp-to-plant distances, so another innovation has been developed to improve production standards here.

Wrist hookah

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Looking down through the standing canopy.



A custom built Reverse Osmosis (RO) machine cleans impurities out of tap water.

HEAVY HARVEST

Typically, various strains like the Kushes (Purple Kush, Bubba Kush, OG Kush) and classics like Blueberry will spend a total of about eight weeks on average in the flowering room after transplant before the vertical station is ready to be taken down and harvested.

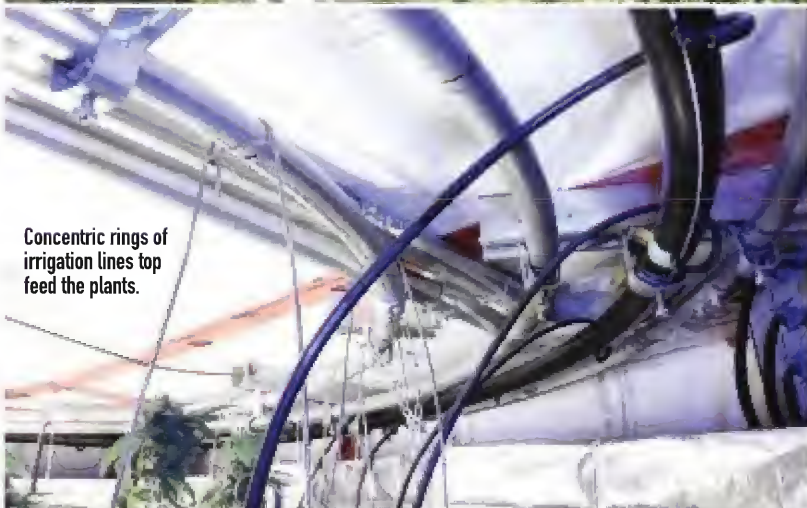
The tubes anchoring the mature plants are handled individually and carried off to a separate harvesting and crop-processing area. This way, the flowering room remains dedicated to flowering and can run undisturbed for maximum production throughout the calendar year.

From propagation to harvest, the plants are fed according to a medical-marijuana-specific nutrient program. Sensi Series A-B base nutrients are used at varying levels (feeding charts are available at advancednutrients.com) depending on plant maturity. To help increase the density, harvest weight and essential-oil content of the buds while keeping stretching to a minimum, liquid Big Bud is added to the nutrient solution during peak bud development, typically at weeks two through six of flowering. Then the growers here switch to OverDrive, which enhances the plants' natural ripening process, before flushing with Final Phase the week before harvest.

In both the vegetative and flowering stages, the columns packed with hydroton are automatically injected with nutrient solution via drip irrigation from a reservoir. The spent solution is drained to waste rather than recirculated to reduce the possibility of spreading pathogens such as pythium. The injection system is timed to be optimized for the changing demands of the crop as it moves through the production line.

Plants rotate quickly through each system and end up a delight to trim as well as consistently potent and flavorful. After trimming, drying and curing, the finished product is ready for the patients of Canada and new plants begin their journey through the system.

Plants rotate quickly through each system and end up a delight to trim as well as consistently potent and flavorful. After trimming, drying and curing, the finished product is ready for the patients of Canada and new plants begin their journey through the system.



Concentric rings of irrigation lines top feed the plants.

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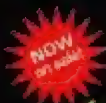
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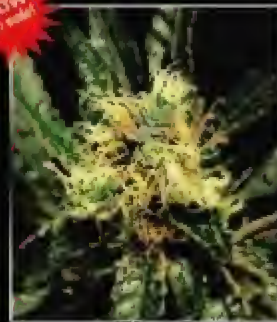
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Cool air is brought in and distributed just under the vertical lighting.

THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT FOR THE JOB

With so many plants in such a small space under strong lighting, reliable environmental-controlling equipment is a must. Most heat generated by the lamps is vented away before it ever enters the growing area through the vertical, air-cooled lighting fixtures. Air-conditioning via heat exchangers and dehumidifiers further helps to keep the environment at the optimal set points. To boost and maintain growth rates in a sealed environment, gas-fired CO₂ generators deliver an average of 700 to 900 additional parts per million (ppm) of carbon dioxide during the light cycles for stronger growth and heavier yields.

Any failure in the cooling equipment could spell disaster for several generations of flowering plants all at once. One of the operators, however, is an environmental-control wizard: For added protection and safety, this facility has a three-phase cooling system. First, if things get too warm, the fans move to high speed. If that doesn't prove enough, the lamps begin to cycle so that not all of them are on at once, thus maintaining the photoperiod while reducing heat. Finally, if heat is still a factor, the HPS lights shut off entirely and fluorescent T5s take over to maintain the flowering-stage light cycle.

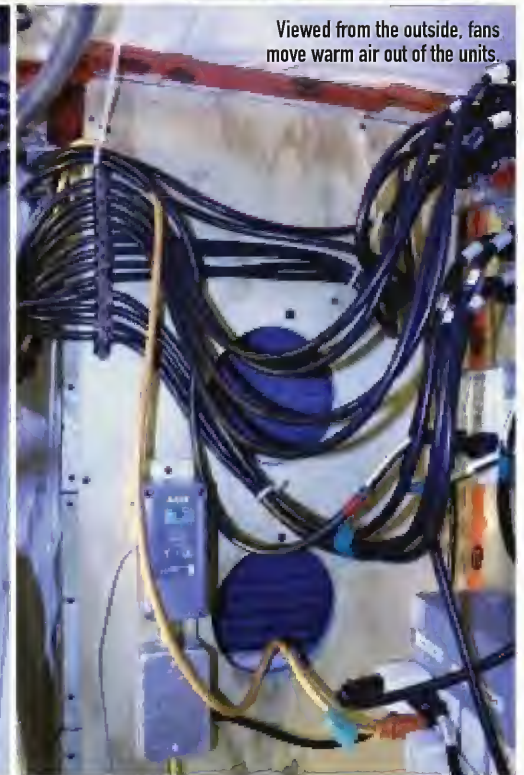
There's even a fourth phase to this system: the emergency shutdown. This drastic step assumes that because all three of the earlier phases proved ineffective, the reason that the temperature is still rising is fire. In this critical phase, all electricity in the entire facility (except to alarms



Heavy duty timers control lighting cycles.

and safety lighting) is shut down while alerts are triggered.

It takes some serious know-how, dedication and investment to create a high-efficiency, high-capacity medical-marijuana production facility like this one. Many of the components utilized in the production cycle were engineered over time through trial and error and are custom-fabri-



Viewed from the outside, fans move warm air out of the units.

cated to suit the facility's particular needs. Just about everything involved in this growing process is truly a one-off from start to finish. These operators are raising medical-marijuana cultivation to a whole other level while getting higher with their crops. ✨

Learn more from Erik at erikbiksa.com.

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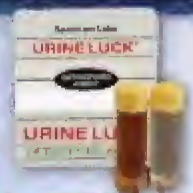
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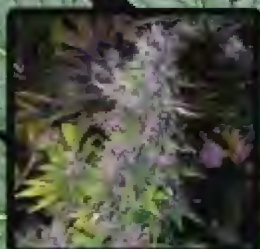
Lady Liberty



GSPOT



Burmese



Blackberry



Gold



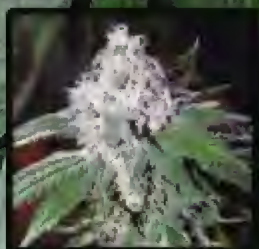
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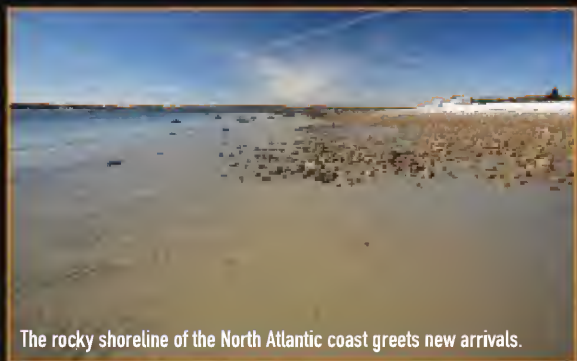
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HT'S SENIOR CULTIVATION EDITOR TAKES A TANTALIZING TOUR OF THREE OF NEW ENGLAND'S GREENEST GANJA GARDENS TO FIND OUT HOW THE EARLIEST AMERICAN COLONIES BECAME A CANNABIS-PRODUCING POWERHOUSE.

NORTHEAST NU

BY DANNY DANKO. PHOTOS BY BRIAN JAHN



The rocky shoreline of the North Atlantic coast greets new arrivals.

PILGRIMS' PRIDE

Farming in New England dates back centuries—long before the arrival here of European settlers looking to escape their past and searching for a new frontier. Arriving to find tough, rocky soil, these pilgrims quickly gleaned growing techniques from the native people in order to survive the grueling winters and unforgiving growing season. They soon became as hardened as the glacial earth.

That tough pioneering spirit lives on in their ancestors, most assuredly so in the local cannabis farmers who eke out a living using spare rooms, car parks and even that empty space “down cell-ah” to produce pot for puffers and patients in need. Surviving the harsh climate and political uncertainties of the region takes a certain fortitude steeped in tradition and expressed by hard work in the face of many challenges.

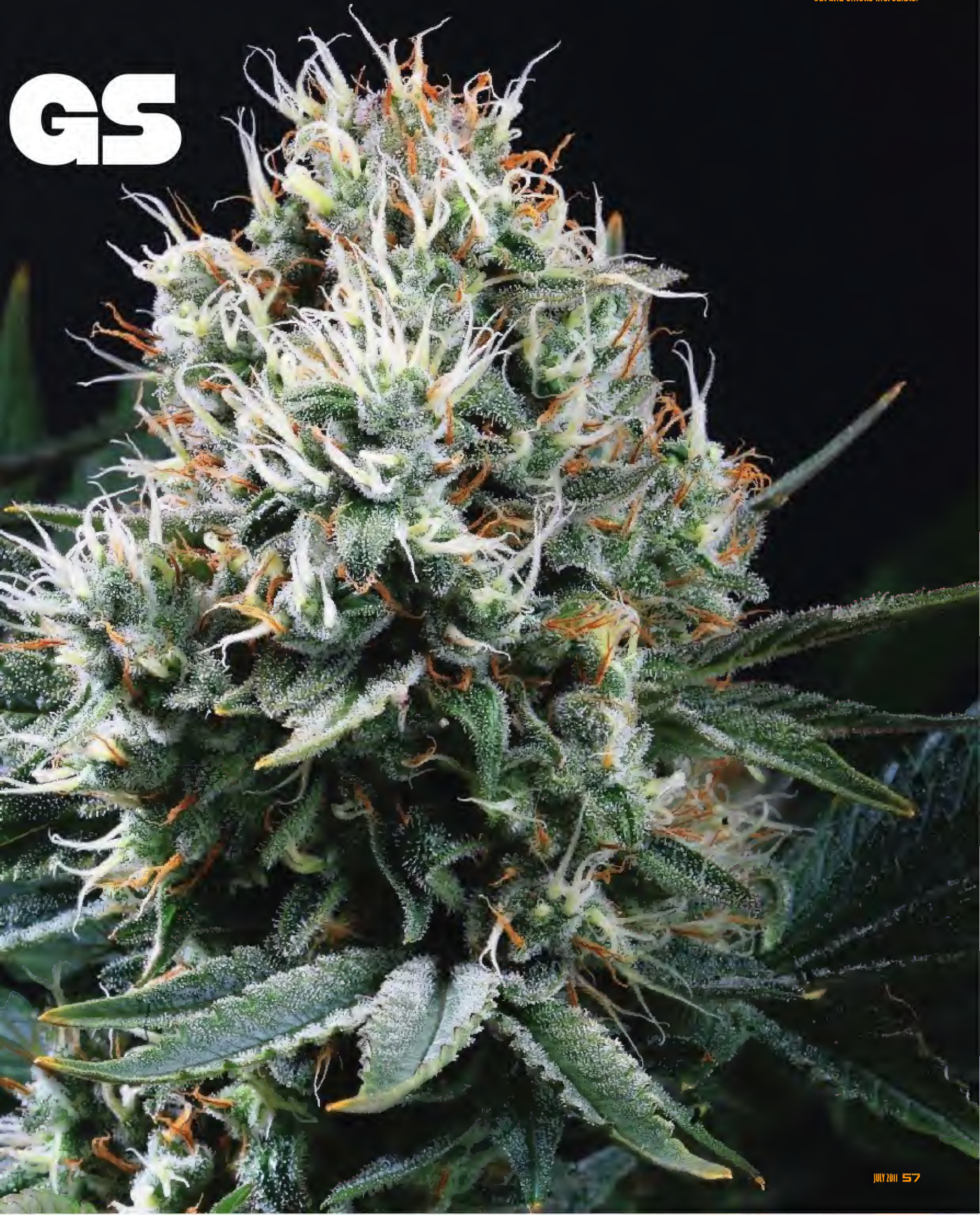
Vermont and Maine have earned a solid reputation through years of cultivating the local legendary varieties such as Super Skunk and Afghani. Other New England states soon followed suit, making the best of a relatively short outdoor season and improving their indoor growing techniques until they rivaled any other cultivating territories in the country.

Voters in Massachusetts recently decided to reduce the penalty for possession of up to 1 ounce of cannabis to merely a fine, and activists in Connecticut and New Hampshire are working on medical-marijuana legislation as well. Along with medical-marijuana laws in Rhode Island, Vermont and Maine, these six Northeast states are proving to be a solid region for cannabis-law reform and the budding business of pot.

It was time to head on up to New England and see what all the fuss was about. I set up meetings with three distinctly different grow teams and brought along one of HIGH TIMES' best photographers to document every lovely detail.

A staple of New England growers, Blueberry fills out and smells incredible.

GS





Flood and drain trays feed these plants rooted in grow rocks.

GARDEN ONE DJ'S GROW

The first indoor facility on our tour was the brainchild of Rhode Island medical-marijuana caregiver DJ Stone. As a cannabis provider to a growing number of medical users in the Ocean State, he's seeking to provide a variety of high-quality strains at an affordable price—something that patients in America's smallest state (and one with the nation's fourth-highest unemployment rate) can truly appreciate.

The growing operation here is overseen by Diesel Dave, whose mission is to harvest cannabis every two weeks. The plant limits imposed under Rhode Island's medical-marijuana law have forced indoor farmers in the state to adapt their techniques in order to maximize yield per plant. This results in fewer plants that are much larger than the typical "Sea of Green"-style garden of the past. Growers vegetate their plants for a month or more to build up a good root and branching system before flowering is induced and the plants get to reach their full potential.

A unique and interesting aspect of this facility is the "lung room," an entire room dedicated to air circulation, odor elimination and environmental control throughout the building. Huge, industrial-sized fans pull all spent hot air out of the various rooms and force it through carbon filters before expelling it. You can feel the wind sucking through the room, and it's this type of air movement that allows the growers here to maximize their space and available light.

Baby plants vegetate until they build up a good root system.



The lung room also contains ballasts and nutrient barrels.



FEEDING STRAINS

Diesel Dave breaks down his preferred nutrient regimen: "We use the General Hydroponics 'Keep It Simple' program with a base of Grow, Micro and Bloom. I add Floralicious Plus, Flora Blend and Liquid Cool Bloom during the mid- to late stages of flowering." As far as supplements go, Diesel Dave likes using the organic foliar spray Extreme Serene from Roots Organic during the vegetative stage to promote new branching sites.

His custom soil mix consists of 50% Pro-Mix and 50% FoxFarm Ocean Forest for the vegetative stage. When he re pots the plants prior to inducing flowering, they go into containers filled with 50% Pro-Mix and 50% FoxFarm Happy Frog, supplemented with earthworm castings and beneficial mycorrhizae in the form of Roots Organic XL.

The strains growing here include Blue Mystic, LSD, Autoflower Double Diesel and Day Wrecker (all organic), plus Acapulco Gold (Barney's Farm), Biofuel dry bud bred by RI caregiver Cheese (Big Buddha), and LA Confidential (DNA Genetics). DJ likes to hire local caregivers to help with trimming the harvests. Darya and Cassandra were on hand the day we visited, carefully snipping away at the sizable colas.

LA Confidential shows typical pure *indica* characteristics such as thick leaves and dense bud growth.





RI caregivers Cassandra and Darya trim up a harvest for patients.

A Blue Mystic cola ready to be taken down and dried.



OUTSIDE PROVIDENCE

While at DJ's farm, I got a chance to meet "Providence Paula" from the Providence's Finest Patient Collective. Her focus is on providing Rhode Island patients with incredible edibles that emphasize local and seasonal ingredients. Her medibles included Lunar Pies, Rice Krispie Treats and some tasty pumpkin muffins, all infused with potent cannabis butter made from strong strains.

Paula speaks passionately about the issues facing caregivers in the state. When I ask about the situation since the medical-marijuana law was passed in 2006, she frowns and tells me: "We're at a stalemate. They keep reexamining the regulations. We can't even talk to lawyers because they've been scared into thinking that they're aiding and abetting a federal crime. How can we become more legitimate as an industry in the face of those kinds of setbacks? The good news is there are some good, responsible caregivers here, and they need support."

Paula's lovely selection of her finest edibles, to be consumed or distributed to those in need come from her belief in the cause. Which is obvious. Her worries echoed in my mind as we departed for the next grow. Hopefully, the politicians here will catch up to the people on the issue of medical marijuana—but until then, it's good to know that compassionate caregivers such as Paula exist to balance out the greedy interlopers seeking to put profits over the needs of patients.

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GARDEN TWO MEDMAN

The next stop on our New England tour turned out to be a sophisticated setup designed and built by a veteran hydroponic grower. This system uses state-of-the-art technology to create optimum growing conditions for ultimate efficiency. Medman's years of underground farming and knowledge of available equipment have resulted in a futuristic grow lab that turns out well over a gram per watt each harvest, allowing him to reap pounds of pot from a relatively small 9' x 9' space.

Diesel Daywrecker exhibits fall coloring as it matures.



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Trellises made of string and wire cages keep heavy bud laden branches from falling down.



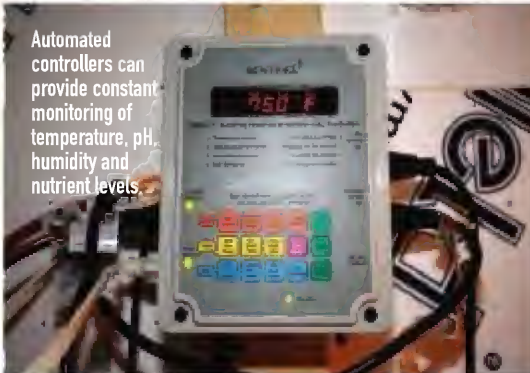
Water-cooled lights can be placed much closer to plants than regular reflectors.



The reservoir keeps lights constantly cool.



A Reverse Osmosis (RO) machine cleans water of all impurities.



Automated controllers can provide constant monitoring of temperature, pH, humidity and nutrient levels.

NUTRIENT PROFILE

Medman uses a variety of plant-feeding products with a base of House & Garden Hydro A and B. He supplements this regimen with Liquid Karma, Botanicare Sweet and Cal-Mag. He fills the 55-gallon reservoir with RO water and adds nutrients until they're at the levels he desires (typically around 1,500 ppm during most stages of growth).

The 24 plants—all connected to one reservoir in the C.A.P. Ebb & Gro Deep Water Culture (DWC) system—consist of 12 Diesel Day Wreckers, five Chem D plants and seven Cindy 99 x Kush (Abusive). In this setup, these strains can yield up to 1 pound each when the conditions are optimal.

The C.A.P. system allows for versatility combined with large plant growth. A built-in timer floods and drains the buckets three or four times a day from the 55-gallon reservoir, resulting in explosive root expansion and massive amounts of branching and budding. Each bucket contains grow rocks to secure the roots and can be moved apart as the plants grow to promote even growth and take advantage of all available light.

Medman also wanted to send a shout-out to his local grow shop, Hydro Earth. The hydroponics supply shops of the region seem to have finally recovered from the shock of the DEA's Operation Green Merchant 20 years ago, and it's nice to see them supporting the medical-marijuana growers that have kept them in business all these years. On that note, we said good-bye to Medman and headed north.

The lighting consisted of four dimmable 1,000-watt systems—two high-pressure sodium (HPS) and two metal halide (MH)—that are all water-cooled. That's right: These grow lights use cold water to remove the heat from the light hoods, allowing Medman to keep his bulbs as close as 6 inches from the tops of his plants and delivering more lumens where it counts. A reservoir and water pump keep the cooling liquid flowing through the system safely, and Medman tells me that he sometimes needs to run a chiller in the reservoir to keep temperatures low enough to be constantly effective.

Because the lights are dimmable, two are usually turned down to 600 watts to conserve energy and further reduce heat. All water used for feeding the plants goes through a Merlin reverse-osmosis (RO) machine that brings the water down to 10 ppm and a pH of 6.0. Medman emphasizes: "People using RO machines need to really know the signs of nutrient deficiencies, because there's literally *nothing* in the water—you build your nutrient profile from scratch." This emphasis on micronutrients keeps his plants from starving and showing the early signs of stress.

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GARDEN THREE CANNABIS COUPLE



Vegetating motherplants provide the clones for future gardens.

These plants are flowering in rockwool cubes in an ebb and flow hydro set-up.



Our last visit was to a pair of pot growers who, as caregivers in their region, define compassion and high quality. Although Outkastt and TOH (“The Other Half”) would prefer not to reveal their home state, they do their best to ensure that medical patients in the surrounding area receive top-notch buds for a reasonable price, regardless of the law. Their properly cured product would fetch much more than they charge in the commercial cannabis market, but that isn’t why they chose to take this risk.

Outkastt explains: “We want to represent cannabis at its best potential, because we’ve seen the benefits firsthand. I’ve had dozens of operations on my back and legs over the years, and I’ve been zonked out on doctor-prescribed pharmaceutical pain pills as well. Medical marijuana is the only thing that works for my ailments without turning me into a zombie.” Seeing the multiple scars on her legs, one would find it hard to argue with that assessment.

STRAIN WHORE

Outkastt and TOH collect many varieties as mother plants and grow over 20 strains at a time in their flowering gardens. “I’m a strain whore,” Outkastt says with a laugh. “I’ve never met one I wouldn’t do! TOH would love to fill each tray with one strain, but I gotta have the variety.” Among the strains they’ve acquired over the years are Long Island Old-School Skunk, C-99 x OG Kush (Abusive), Super Snowdog, Chem 4, the White, Giesel, Chem D, OG Kush, Piff, BB Chem, Mass Super Skunk, Amnesia Haze, HP-13, Casey Jones, East Coast Sour Diesel, Bubba Kush, Mamba, Pestilence, Blueberry and Lemon Thai. “Blueberry works best for my nerve pain,” Outkastt notes.

To maintain a perpetual harvest every two to three weeks, the pair utilize several rooms for the various stages of growth. In one, they’re experimenting with what Outkastt calls a “faero” system (short for “fake aero”). Mostly, however, their gardens consist of hydroponic flood-and-drain trays with plants in 4-inch rockwool cubes.

Air-cooled 1,000-watt HPS lights illuminate their rooms. “It’s important to clean the lenses!” TOH says. “The air-cooled lights work great—I can run all eight in this room right through the summer. We push air through rather than suck it out so that odors don’t escape through any cracks. Any extra air we push through can come out through the hoods.”

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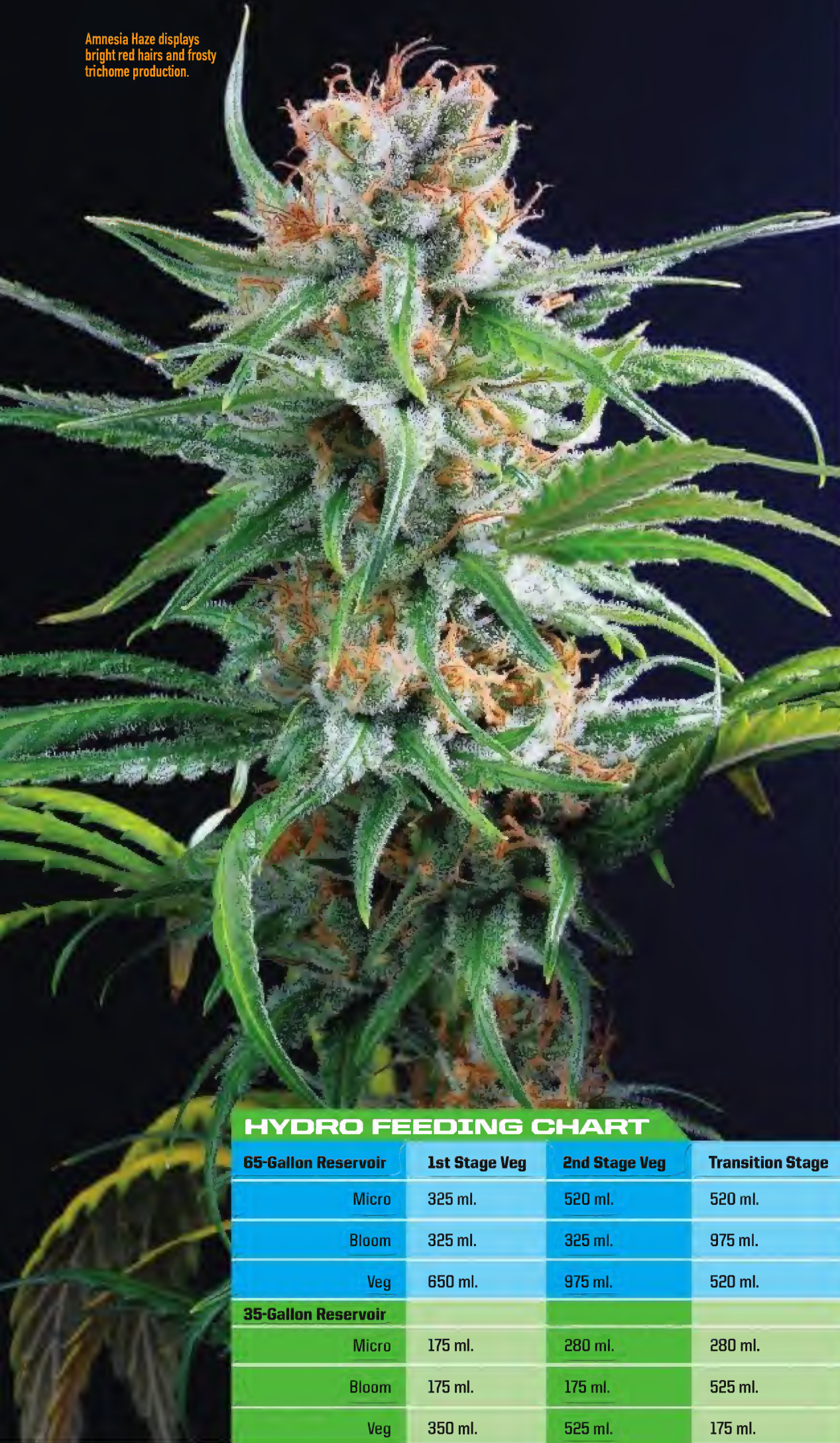
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Amnesia Haze displays bright red hairs and frosty trichome production.



GAS, FOOD AND BUDDING

This cannabis couple adds CO₂ gas using tanks and regulators to keep their plants swelling. The CO₂ injection (to 1,500 ppm of carbon dioxide) accelerates photosynthesis rates to a heightened level, boosting growth and building bigger buds. For nutrients, they've experimented with most of what's available at the local grow shop before finally settling on Cutting Edge Solutions out of Santa Rosa, CA.

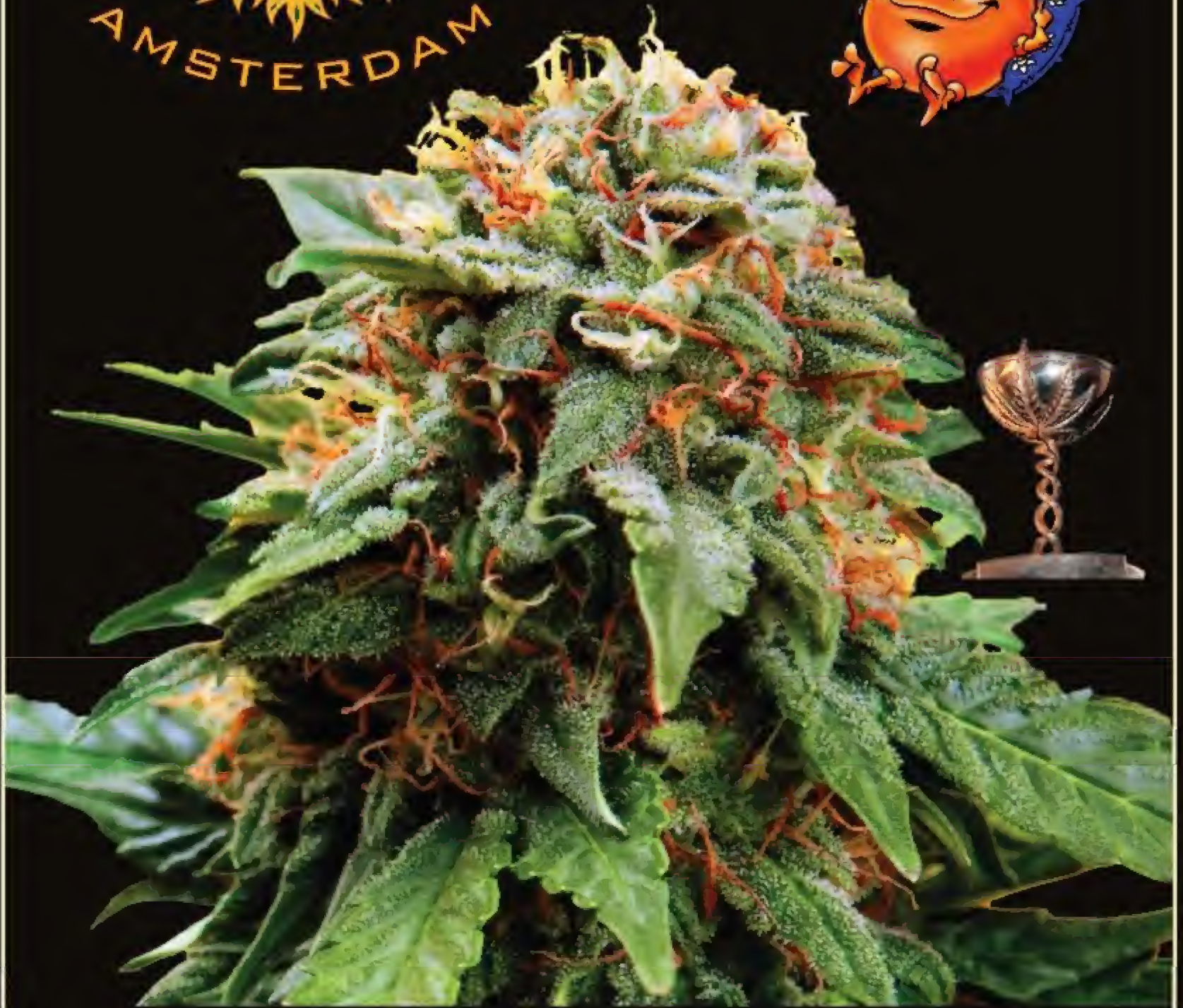
Outkastt emphasizes the importance of choosing great base nutrients. "We've found that CES products leave no salt buildup, but you always still gotta flush! Otherwise, you get that 'snap, crackle, pop' weed—you know, the Rice Krispie stuff that sparks and won't burn right." She tells me she was sold on CES partly due to the company's online feeding charts, which she found a useful resource for navigating the confusing world of hydroponic plant-food dosages. Outkastt and TOH also use plenty of additives, such as Hygrozyme, Superthrive and Spray & Grow as a weekly foliar, as well as Cal-Mag and Cool Bloom during flowering.

For odor control, they use ozone generators, plenty of activated-carbon filters and fans, and one ingenious method that was brand-new to me. Outkastt explains: "We keep our Crock-Pot going for *hours*. It's key, especially during harvests. We get some great meals out of it, and we've even used it to make cannabis butter for our patients as well."

Our winter tour ended with a hearty New England feast of beef roast and vegetables cooked in the Crock-Pot. There was snow on the ground, but we were smoking locally grown buds harvested a mere three weeks earlier. In a region known for resiliency and a stoic dedication to hard work, the marijuana growers of New England are leading the way, pairing tradition with innovation to achieve greatness. ✨

HYDRO FEEDING CHART

65-Gallon Reservoir	1st Stage Veg	2nd Stage Veg	Transition Stage	Full Bloom Stage	Final Flush
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Bloom	325 ml.	325 ml.	975 ml.	1300 ml.	
Veg	650 ml.	975 ml.	520 ml.	None	
35-Gallon Reservoir					
Micro	175 ml.	280 ml.	280 ml.	280 ml.	Plain Water
Bloom	175 ml.	175 ml.	525 ml.	800 ml.	
Veg	350 ml.	525 ml.	175 ml.	None	



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A HIGH TIMES JOURNALIST'S JOURNEY INTO THE HEART OF THE CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT.

BY CHRIS SIMUNEK

This article is about an event I attended recently in Washington, DC, known as CPAC—the annual Conservative Political Action Conference, which began in 1973 as a meeting ground for right-leaning politicians. Let me just get on record here at the start the bulk of what I was able to glean from the couple of CPAC lectures I attended, and then we can have some fun:

Obamacare is going to sink this country the way socialism is currently sinking Greece, Ireland and Spain; it's poised to destroy the future of the children of America, and those who manage to survive will be living in a postapocalyptic society, roaming the ruins of states both red and blue in cannibalistic gangs not unlike those found in Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*.

After the fall of Hosni Mubarak, the Muslim Brotherhood will rise to power in Egypt and institute sharia law; it will spread via a domino effect across the Middle East before making a beeline west along the 30th Parallel, where it will be welcomed by the American Caliphate that was spawned in the wake of the election of Barack Hussein Obama, the first Muslim president. Once this is achieved, we will all be taking orders from Tehran, as dictated to our own Ayatollah Pelosi, ensconced in her gilded palace at the top of the Ground Zero Victory Mosque.



If the Muslims fail in their bid to conquer America, there's always the chance that the Mexican drug cartels will storm across the southern border, team up with the millions of undocumented workers already here, retake the Alamo and declare it the capital of the new Narco States of America. Having long ago renounced America and pledged allegiance to their own pork-bellied fiefdoms, the unions will welcome this bronze tsunami—provided they pay their dues—and the dormant factories of Flint, MI, will hum again with the *boing* and *clang* of industry as cocaine refineries spread across the Midwest. If the tables don't turn in the 2012 elections, we risk a Mayan apocalypse all our own.

No matter who comes after us, the Muslims or the *cholos*, they will be met with little resistance from our military, now composed mostly of married gay men, who have little more to fight with than bolt-action rifles and their own greased and bulging muscles due to a combination of over-restrictive gun laws and the gutting of the military budget mandated by Obama in order to fund the 10th wave of his stimulus package—the one that provides, among other things, a taxpayer bailout to help close out Michael Moore's Arby's tab.

I admit I was tired and dozed off a few times, so I might have dreamed some of the above. The most interesting event that occurred at the conference was the booing and cries of “war criminal!” that Dick Cheney received as he presented Donny Rumsfeld with CPAC's Defender of the Constitution Award. A host of Ron Paul supporters let loose on the dynamic duo, which was my first indication that if I stuck my porcine journalistic snout into the CPAC mud, I might find some truffles.

As for my own politics, I'd say that in theory I'm an anarchist, but there are too many assholes in the world for anarchism to be a workable system. I would agree that democracy, which is a euphemism for “mob rule,” is the most viable political system out there at the moment, but I have no political affiliation. If I had to label myself, I'd say that I'm a New Yorker—I keep one eye over my shoulder and hope for the best.

“The rent is too damn high!”

These words greeted me as I walked into the Marriott on the second day of the conference. After three hours of sleep, I woke at 5:45 a.m. and, after running a gauntlet of K-9 squads at Penn Station in New York with a bag of Kush in my underwear, rode the Acela speed train through the beautifully graffiti'd rail yards of Newark, NJ; Wilmington, DE; Philadelphia; and Baltimore before finally landing in our nation's capital.

It was there that I met up with an old friend, painter/photographer and liberal agitator Bobby Belfiore, whom I've known for nearly 20 years from our days on New York's Lower East Side, back when it was still the place to go. Painters and writers share a bond unique from the other arts in that we both spend too much time in lonely rooms trying to capture the three-dimensional world in a two-dimensional medium. Right off the bat, though, Bobby hit me with a question that I didn't know how to answer.

“So what is it we're trying to do here?” he asked.

I shrugged. “I guess if we see someone famous, you take their picture and I'll ask them about weed. It would be great if we had some sort of politically inspired epiphany, but I ain't holding my breath.”

The Marriott Wardman Park hotel is a cavernous conglomeration of buildings so confusing on the inside that it could have been designed by M.C. Escher. I walked in from the parking lot to the lobby and then somehow had to take the elevator *down* to my room on the sixth floor. So the whole event took place not on a standard terrestrial plane, but in a Fox News version of Middle Earth. In the hotel's sepia-hued lobby, there's this golden obelisk that juts up from the floor Kubrick-style in the center of the room. It's there you find the brutes—reporters, activists, lobbyists, celebrities and fringe folk. I couldn't resist having my picture taken with Jimmy McMillan, the "rent is too damn high" guy (he's got some great hair), and that was the only contact I had with a black person for my entire stay at CPAC.

I wound up talking with Howard Wooldridge from Law Enforcement Against Prohibition. Howard is one of the five retired law officers who founded LEAP in the spring of 2002. He told me he saw hope in the shifting political climate.

"The good news now is the Tea Party folks," he said. "Because they're such believers in the 10th Amendment"—which reserves for the states all powers not explicitly granted to the federal government in the US Constitution—"we're seeing extra traction now than in the last Congress, because these new Republicans are saying: 'I may or may not believe in marijuana being good, bad or ugly, but I certainly believe in the 10th Amendment so strongly that I'll vote yes on repealing federal prohibition' ... because prohibition of marijuana is a nanny-state liberal concept in which government agents will come into the home of an adult and place them under arrest for something they're putting in their body. I help them connect the dots."

Minnesota Congresswoman Michele Bachmann arrived and was mobbed. The day before, she'd announced her presidential bid for 2012. As I approached, one of her guards body-blocked me. We caught an impressive propaganda film she'd produced about women in the Tea Party. I liked the part where Ms. Bachmann played Nostradamus while they spliced pictures of Nancy Pelosi, Barack Obama and Jimmy Carter with images of money being flushed down the toilet, zombies crawling from the earth and footage of crying children.

"The moral tragedy of our day is that this current generation is consuming the sustenance of a generation that isn't even born, sub-



The rent's too high but I'm not.



Tea Partier Michele Bachmann



Ron Paul supporters Bryn M. and John H.

I FOUND IT ODD THAT KIDS UNDER 25 WORSHIPPED RON PAUL, A 76-YEAR-OLD TEXAS CONGRESSMAN, AND NOT SOME JUNKIE GUITAR PLAYER LIKE I DID AT THEIR AGE.

jecting our children to a reduced standard of living ..." Bachman proclaimed, her voice quivering with worry.

I shit you not, Michele Bachmann has *twenty-three* foster kids, not to mention five spuds she's germinated in her own mortal womb. So I will accept that she's an expert on unhappy children.

It was approaching beer o'clock, so we headed over to Harry's Bar next to the lobby, one of those dark-wood Irish places that is made to look old but is not. Inside, it was teeming with the sort of energy you'd expect from a roomful of citizens drinking in the afternoon on what would normally be a workday. On TV screens overhead, Hosni Mubarak was cashing in 30 years of dictatorial rule and Egyptians were rejoicing in the promise of democracy—dancing in the streets, beating up journalists, and celebrating the first taste of freedom in the land of the pharaohs.

"Do you notice something weird about the girls here?" I asked Bobby.

"They're hot!" he laughed. "It's like some debutante coming-out party."

It's something I never thought I'd say, but I'm a journalist, beholden to the truth, and the truth is this: Conservative women make my dick want to bark like a dog. They were everywhere, fine ladies dressed in tight skirts and seamed stockings like it was Sam Giancana's post-Dallas victory party.

The kids here surprised me in that, as libertarians, they hated George W. Bush and were vocal advocates for the legalization of marijuana. I found it odd that kids under 25 worshipped Ron Paul, a 76-year-old Texas Congressman, and not some junkie guitar player like I did at their age. At the bar, I talked

to John H. and his girlfriend Bryn M., graduates of Ole Miss who, as members of Young Americans for Liberty, had come to CPAC to support Ron Paul.

"What is it about Ron Paul you find so appealing?" I asked.

"I could go on all day," John H. said. "Foreign policy, ending the Federal Reserve ... legalizing all drugs is one of his things. Obviously, it would solve so many problems; the War on Drugs is such a failure."

"Were you one of the people who booed Dick Cheney?"

"Yes, I was," John H. said proudly. "Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld were instrumental in bringing our country into an unconstitutional war that has destroyed our image in the Middle East, thereby making us less safe at

home and abroad. On top of that, the war has added billions to the deficit, which threatens our already feeble monetary system. Furthermore, they have the gall to claim that America has the right to incarcerate people with no trial and torture them. This is a complete violation of the Geneva Convention, a ratified treaty to which the United States is constitutionally bound."

After a couple Bloody Marys, Bobby and I still weren't feeling right, so we headed back down to my room to get stoned. The CPAC lectures were all broadcast via closed circuit on the hotel TV. As we passed the pipe, we sat back and watched Pat Boone being given the CPAC Lifetime Achievement Award.

Back in the 1950s, two singers consistently competed for the top of the charts: Elvis Presley and Pat Boone. Elvis, of course, died in the late '70s after swallowing a shoebox full of pills. Soul is heavy—it has a tendency to sink a man. Much the opposite, Pat Boone floated across the decades to be here today.

"I tell you," I said, sparking up some of my underwear-cured Kush, "I wish it was Elvis getting the award from CPAC, and Pat Boone who died on a toilet back in '77. Elvis was a proud Republican, gun nut and special agent of the DEA—as deputized by President Richard Nixon. He would have loved this shit."

"Can you imagine what he would have wore?" Bobby asked.

"Jesus ..."

"When the Jaycees gave him an award in '71, he gave that speech: 'Without a song, the day would never end / Without a song, a man ain't got no friend ...'"

"And here's Pat Boone calling the president a Communist ..."



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Pete demonstrates how to play pocket pool without a pocket.



Der Führer



Not all cops are this cool.

guys have a safe trip home."

I walked away from the whole experience reflecting that the one personal-freedom issue not even the Ron Paul folks care to discuss is an individual's right to administer violence. Violence, we are led to believe, is a tool that can only be trusted in the hands of the police and the military, who do the bidding of our elected leaders. So George W. Bush can kill tens of thousands of people in an illegitimate war and retire a multimillionaire, but if someone screws your wife and you redesign his face with a box cutter, you're going to be the one in the orange jumpsuit. We the people are only allowed to resort to violence in the split second when someone is actively trying to harm us—as if premeditation were something neg-

PETE LUNGED AT ME, YANKING OPEN HIS ZIPPER AND SHOVING HIS CROTCH IN MY FACE.

ative and not a period of rational deliberation.

Violent acts should be judged by a jury of peers, sure—but according to the circumstances, not blanket laws created to maintain established hierarchies of control. If a CEO knew he risked getting dragged out of his office by his shareholders and hung from a lamppost if he squandered their retirement funds, the world would be a far more civil place.



Ronald Reagan, Original Gangsta

The following afternoon, I met back up with Bobby and the two of us went looking for Ann Coulter. You can smell the bitch when she's near; you can see the tails start to wag around the obelisk. You wait and then she appears, a golden-haired Valkyrie, "the chooser of the slain," not on horseback but surrounded by bodyguards. She was the queen bee of the Marriott lobby, and everyone wanted to taste her honey. I couldn't penetrate the phalanx of drones, but when she turned to leave, I gave chase and caught her at the escalator.

"Ann!" I shouted. "Do you support the legalization of cocaine?"

She cackled like a muskrat and then she was gone.

I forgot to mention that CPAC was held the same week as what would have been Ronald Reagan's 100th birthday, had someone kept him alive in one of those Captain Pike-type wheelchair life-support systems. There were photos of Reagan everywhere: President Ronnie in suit and tie, Casual Ronnie in an open-collared shirt, and (my favorite) Cowboy Ronnie with a wide-brimmed hat and pointed boots designed specifically to stomp mudholes in the asses of the freedom-hating peoples of the world. We saw people walking around wearing Ronald Reagan masks and a giant cake with an effigy of Ronnie's head sculpted in buttercream.

I remembered watching Reagan's inauguration on the black-and-white television we had in our kitchen, interspersed as it was with footage of the hostages being released from Iran. I also fondly recalled all the great hardcore punk songs he inspired—he was a guy, like Stagger Lee or Johnny B. Goode, whose legend lent itself well to song.

From a balcony in the main auditorium, Bobby and I observed the dinner in Reagan's honor—one of those \$1,000-a-plate deals—hoping to find out who was going to win the Ronald Reagan Award for Conservative Excellence or whatever the hell it was called. I watched George Will eat a plate of chicken cordon bleu, but the entertainment value of that drops off steeply after the first 15 minutes, so we headed back to Harry's Bar.

"I'm tired of hearing people's opinions," I confided to Bobby. "The roller-coaster cadences, the stabbing inflections ... it's debilitating."

At the end of the night, at a bar in the Marriott lobby right after last call, I was nearly raped.

The place was crawling with liquored-up conservatives wringing the last bit of juice from the day. Bobby looked natty in his dark suit and porkpie hat, and I was wearing snakeskin boots, so I guess that's why this shitfaced drunk—a guy named Pete who looked like Alec Baldwin and talked like Joe Pesci—started accusing us of being non-Americans.

"You from fuckin' Europe? With those fuckin' shoes?" Pete asked.

"Don't sass me, bitch," I told him. "I can trace my bloodline back to the Draft Riots."

"With those shoes, you look like you're European."

"With that cheap blazer, you look like you're a substitute teacher."

"Ahhhhh!" Pete screamed. He was a baiter, and I got the impression he'd been searching all night for someone who would give it back to him. We told him we were with HIGH TIMES, and he made the dubious claim that he was a blogger for Gawker and that he'd invented the term "snorkeling." This he was quite proud of.

"What the hell is 'snorkeling'?"

"Snorkeling is when a man pulls another man's pants down when he's sleeping and tries to suck his cock!" Pete informed me.

"How do you pay the rent?" I asked.

"I'm in sales. Energy-conservation systems."

"You're like a green-energy guy."

"Oh, *yeah*," Pete drawled. "I'm all about the green—tree-hugging, smoking the dope, the whole deal. I'm a libertarian: Do whatever the fuck you want, just don't rape kids, break laws Fuck, man, I *invented* 'snorkeling,'" Pete reminded us.

"You're a little obsessed with this snorkeling shit," I observed.

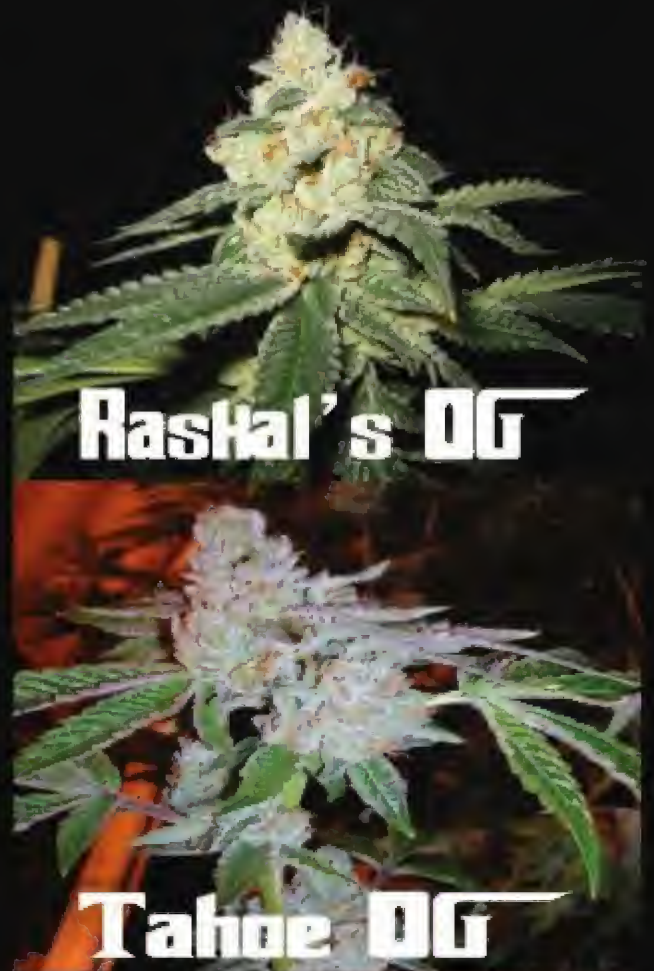
"Wait till I tell people I met HIGH TIMES at CPAC."

"Dude, you're not going to remember any of this. You're going to wake up tomorrow and the only thing on your mind will be how that hooker you ordered last night had a dick."

At this point, Pete lunged at me, yanking open his zipper and shoving his crotch in my face—much to Bobby's delight, who, rather than help me defend my homosexual virginity, was snapping pictures.

"You guys have no game," Pete announced, zipping his trousers back up. "I hate old guys who still think they have game in their pussies. You

The CALI ConnectionTM Seed Co.

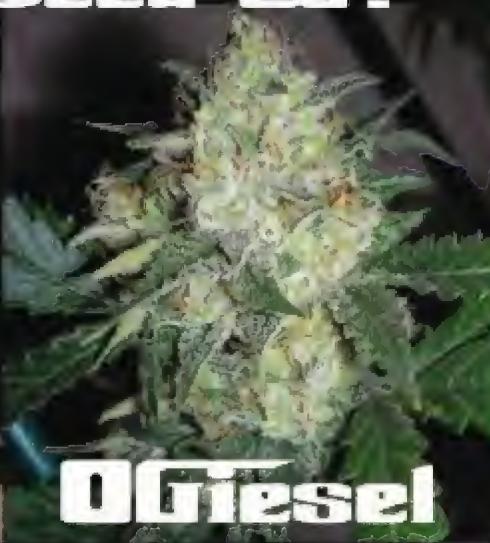


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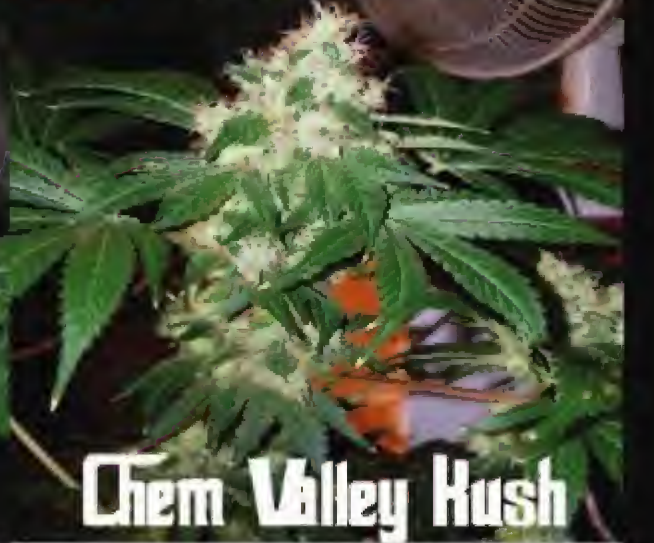
Tahoe OG



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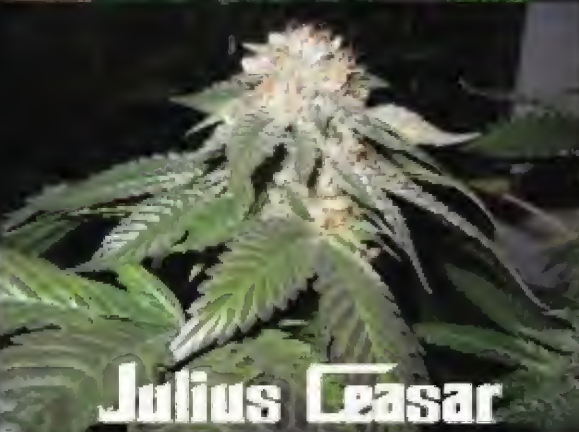
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"Isn't that why you're here?"

We spent the next two hours getting loaded with a retired Rikers Island prison guard. He was an old-school New Yorker, a ruddy-cheeked Irishman with a great accent. After 15 years at Rikers, his bullshit detector was hardwired into his central nervous system. At one point he asked, "Are you here to make fun of us?"

Changing the subject, I asked if he ever met any famous convicts at Rikers.

"That guy from the Wu-Tang crew. Old Bastard ..."

"Ol' Dirty Bastard?"

"Yeah, him. He was weird. He was in protective custody. He never came out of his cell; he just used to sit there. He was..."

"Schizo?"

"Nuts. Just really out of his mind the whole time."

Eventually, Bobby pulled me aside and confessed that he couldn't stand listening to this guy who was living on a fat pension talk about how unions should be abolished. Plus he was tired of getting funny looks every time he ordered a merlot.

"I don't know what to do," I confessed. "The event's almost over and I don't really have a story."

"Maybe the moral of the story is: Well, what the hell do you expect hanging out with a bunch of conservatives?"

As the clock ran out in the fourth quarter of this game, it was time for sudden death. I told Bobby to wait at the bar, that I'd had an idea, and then bolted back out to the lobby. I wanted to learn more about the one part of CPAC that confounded rather than confirmed my expectations—namely, all those pot-loving, Cheney-hating libertarian kids and their smoking-hot girlfriends.

I caught a stroke of luck when I found John H. walking out of the master ballroom.

"There's a HIGH TIMES pot party in my room in one hour," I told him. "I'm going on a beer run—meet me at the bar and bring your friends."

After a trip to the bodega, I returned to Harry's Bar to find a gang of about 30 kids waiting for me—all guys—and one very nervous-looking Bobby Belfiore.

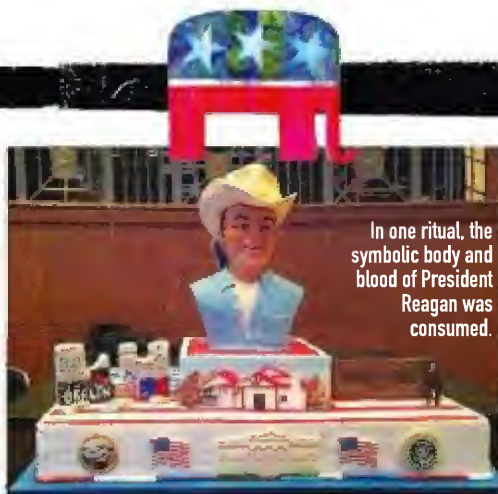
"This is going south very fast," Bobby confided, pulling me aside. "We're surrounded by Washington power brokers, Secret Service—everyone here is a card-carrying member of the NRA."

"Sounds like you don't have the stomach for hard-core investigative journalism," I said.

"I've seen *Scared Straight*," Bobby countered. "If we go to jail and some guy asks me for my shoes, I'm not gonna know what to say."

I grabbed John H. and, after a fast sprint through the catacomb hallways, we managed to shake off half the crowd.

Back at the room, we cracked some beers, rolled some joints. I decided it would be best if



In one ritual, the symbolic body and blood of President Reagan was consumed.

IF I HELD A GUN TO YOUR HEAD AND TOLD YOU YOU HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN BEING A DEMOCRAT OR A REPUBLICAN, WHICH WOULD IT BE? "I WOULDN'T," JOHN H. LAUGHED. "I'D TAKE THE BULLET."



Ron Paul attracts both male and female groupies.

we threw a towel under the door and hotboxed the bathroom. Standing on the toilet, I interviewed the kids in rotating shifts as joints and pipes traded hands.

These kids were embarking on a future in the public eye and didn't want their names used. Most were part of Young Americans for Liberty and had met in Kentucky working on Rand Paul's campaign. One, who asked to be called John Q. Public, was a top player in Christine O'Donnell's failed Senate campaign and was currently running a nonprofit; another, whom I'll refer to as Unknown Stoner No. 1 (USN1), was about to become a delegate in North Carolina. There was Vinny, who worked as a counselor in a juvenile penitentiary, and Matt, who was a musician studying philosophy and law.

"How do the traditional conservatives view the Ron Paul crowd?" I asked.

"There's a lot of hatred," USN1 said. "A lot of resentment that we're here to impinge on the traditional right wing."

"Do a lot of conservatives smoke pot?"

"A lot of the social conservatives don't—the faith-and-family voters," said J.Q. Public

"We're hoping that they die out in the next generation," Matt added.

Talk turned to the Drug War, and I asked them, knowing that they were against publicly funded health care, who would pay for drug treatment once the laws were changed.

"How much money does this country spend on the War on Drugs?" J.Q. Public asked. "A shit ton. When you take the aggregate cost of the War on Drugs, how much money would you give to charities if the taxes were lower in your state? A shit ton more. So what you would have is all these nonprofits developing, and people would inherently give more money and be more altruistic at heart."

"The less money you take from them, the nicer rich people are going to be?" I said. "I don't buy it."

"Has anyone ever been employed by a poor person?" J.Q. Public countered. "No. So rich people, if they have more money, what are they going to do? 'I'm going to increase the size of my business.' And that creates more jobs. What does that do to the poor person? It offers to bring them into the middle class. That's where the trickle-down theory *does* work."

"So, working to elect Christine O'Donnell," I said. "That sounds like a thankless job."

"They just paid me a lot of money," J.Q. Public laughed. "I had no pretensions of her winning. She's batshit crazy."

"I have a quote," Matt interjected. "If Ron Paul was president, we wouldn't have to smoke weed that was in someone's underwear!"

Toward the end of the discussion, I turned to John H. and asked, "If I held a gun to your head and told you you had to choose between being a Democrat or a Republican, which would it be?"

"I wouldn't," he laughed. "I'd take the bullet."

Our work was done. Once the last of the kids had left, I looked back at Bobby, who seemed monumentally relieved.

"College kids with opinions," he groaned. "I don't trust them. If you wanna tell me how the world should be run, try living in it first. You have to fall in love, get your heart broken, work some crappy job to pay the rent ... get crushed, then talk to me."

"A few of these kids will turn out all right," I opined. "I admire their optimism. The future they think they're going to live in—it's like watching *The Jetsons*."

"Yeah, well, you were in the bathroom smoking pot," Bobby drawled. "I was out here arguing with some numbskull who called himself an *anarcho-capitalist*. He wanted to dissolve the state and let corporations run the country. *Corporations*. Just get rid of the cops and let human nature take over and everything will be fine." He was not amused. "Thank God it's over ... did you find the moral to the story or whatever the hell you were looking for?"

"I don't think every story needs a revelation," I mused. "Sometimes it's enough just to bear witness. This trip was good for us. You and I, a painter and a writer, we spend too much time indoors. Sometimes you have to walk outside into that coal-mine world, check the birdcage on your porch and just make sure that the canary's still alive." ✨

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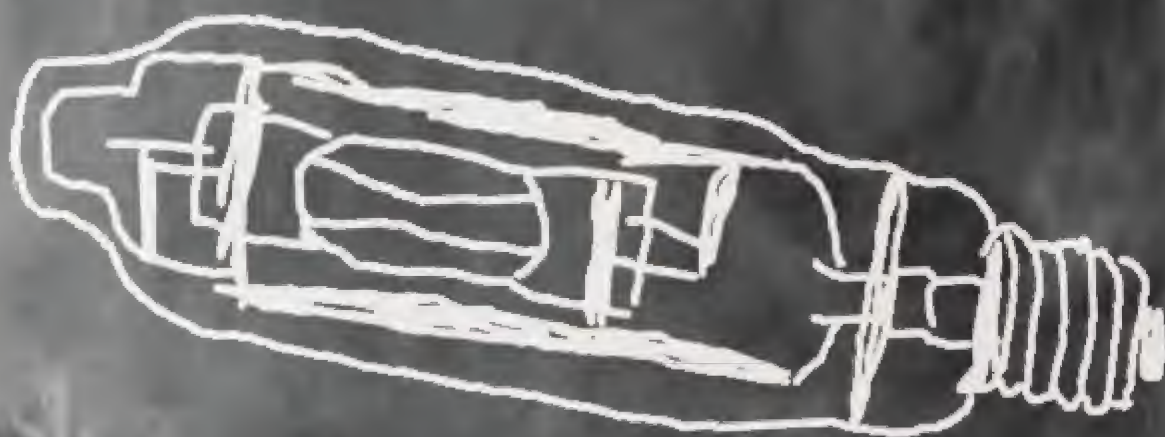
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EMERY BEHIND BARS

The **HIGH TIMES** Interview with Marc Emery. By Dan Skye

On the day of Marc Emery's arrest, DEA chief Karen Tandy stated in a press release: "Today's DEA arrest of Marc Scott Emery, publisher of *Cannabis Culture* magazine and the founder of a marijuana legalization group, is a significant blow not only to the marijuana trafficking trade in the US and Canada, but also to the marijuana legalization movement. His marijuana trade and propagandist marijuana magazine have generated nearly \$5 million a year in profits that bolstered his trafficking efforts, but those have gone up in smoke today. Emery and his organization had been designated as one of the Attorney General's most wanted international drug trafficking organizational targets—one of only 46 in the world and the only one from Canada. Hundreds of thousands of dollars of Emery's illicit profits are known to have been channeled to marijuana legalization groups active in the United States and Canada. Drug legalization lobbyists now have one less pot of money to rely on."

As usual, the drug warriors thought they'd scored a huge victory. Hardly.

Marc Emery, the powerful cannabis activist and celebrity seed merchant, may be behind bars, but his legacy continues to inspire new activists and his influence remains strong. In this exclusive interview, Emery makes it clear he's lost none of his energy and refuses to knuckle under.

Do you consider yourself a political prisoner?

Obviously, the DEA and the Canadian government, which collaborated with the DEA, are both involved in jailing me. All of my activity was directed toward raising money to fund and support a massive network of political activity aimed at thwarting the activities of the DEA and to advance the legalization agenda. All of the money I received, after paying employees, seed producers, advertising and other business costs, was dedicated to the movement cause.

Are you angry or do you fall into dark moods considering what has befallen you?

I do get miserable and frustrated with my predicament. I do become forlorn at the prospect of spending years in this cruelly run concentration camp for foreigners. I try to keep my feelings about my incarceration in perspective—you don't become a legend in your own time without sacrifice, risk, hardship and struggle.

What sustains you behind bars?

The letters people send to me in prison remind me of my catalog of achievements for the movement. Many people write to say I've saved their life by something I did for them personally. Four women have named children after me and send me regular updates and photos of my namesakes.

How is your relationship with your wife holding up?

Her absence is very painful. Americans who are sentenced in federal court get sent to the federal prison nearest their spouse or family, usually within 500 miles from their home. I am 4,000 miles away from my home in Vancouver, Canada. I could have been put in Sheridan, OR (700 miles away), or Lompoc FCI in California (1,100 miles away), which is what my sentencing judge recommended. But I was put in the US prison for foreigners farthest away as could be, in the southeast corner of Georgia.

I miss Jodie unrelentingly. I have no qualms in saying I never get used to being away from her. But I want her to do a huge amount on my behalf. She has to look after the store and the websites; she has to sustain me, prop up my morale, and find

money to come see me every second weekend at considerable expense and exhaustion-inducing travel. She misses me, but she has to stay strong and deal with the depression that comes over me every six weeks or so in jail.

As for our relationship, she will be Mrs. Emery until the day I die. She is completely, utterly 100 percent my wife, partner and best friend. Our intense romantic love for each other is never in doubt. Her visits to me every two weeks are heaven-sent. We are forever.

Describe prison life.

When I was at the Seattle/Tacoma Federal Detention Center in Washington, I had email with Jodie and 29 other correspondents. I had a two-man cell and got along with my cellmate. My newspapers arrived the day of issue, and Jodie got to visit every weekend at much less inconvenience.

But I never got outside and eventually, at Sea-Tac, they covered up all the windows so you couldn't even see the outside. I thought it was difficult there. Fellow inmates would tell me: "Wait until you get to a low-security prison—it gets way better." I was looking forward to an improvement when I finally got to my designated facility. Then I ended up here at D. Ray James Correctional Facility, and I have been profoundly disappointed.

Why is that?

Canadians get sent to vastly inferior, privately owned, for-profit federal prisons with shockingly lower standards than prisons for US citizens run by the Bureau of Prisons. All Canadians, once sentenced, are housed in for-profit prisons run by GEO Group or Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), which don't have to adhere to Bureau of Prison policy or procedure. These for-profit prisons have very little oversight by the BOP. The singular imperative for these private prisons is warehousing inmates at the lowest possible cost. These private prisons handle foreign nationals exclusively in about 20 facilities across the US.

At D. Ray James, a prison in the Okefenokee swampland region of southeast Georgia that is exclusively for non-American citizens, I live in a 64-man dormitory with absolutely no privacy.

How are foreigners treated as opposed to Americans?

One of the most glaring inequities for the 12 Canadians in the inmate population of 1,600—scheduled to rise to 2,500 by summer 2011—is that all US inmates in federal prisons, of all security levels, have access to hours a day of email through the CorrLinks system. But non-American inmates don't. This is an extraordinary deprivation for the Canadians and other nationalities here.

The reason for this deprivation is obvious: Most of our litigation and legal action would be directed at GEO Group, D. Ray James and the Bureau of Prisons for the willful indifference, negligence and cruelties that go on here unchecked.

No email makes contact with our family, lawyers and friends so much more challenging, since all inmates only get 300 minutes *monthly* for all phone calls. That's less than 10 minutes a day.

The prison is ineptly run day in and day out. I have concluded it is by design so GEO can extort more money out of the US federal government by saying it can't be run on the \$1,008,000 GEO receives *weekly* to run this penny-pinching concentration camp for foreigners.

Canadian Marc Emery, a legend of the cannabis seed industry, is behind bars for five years for his activism and audacity.

There are no relevant educational courses or skill trades offered here. There is razor wire on every interior fence and structure, even though everyone here is here for illegal entry, drug dealing/transport or white-collar crime. Our movement within the prison is very tightly controlled, and we are frisked frequently.

What's your relationship with other inmates?

I have not had conflicts with inmates or staff. Problems all stem from the management and corporate dictates of GEO Group. What I cannot understand is how a private corporation like GEO can legally hire all of these "deportable aliens," most of whom do not have green cards to work legally in the United States. All physical maintenance, food services and the like are done by inmates at 12 cents an hour. Has GEO received a special exemption from the federal government that allows a for-profit US corporation to do what no other US business entity is allowed to do: hire illegal aliens to work in their businesses? By what political or legal alchemy can these same illegal workers be hired by GEO to essentially to maintain this "industry" here at D. Ray James Correctional Facility?

All inmates get assigned a job. If you don't work on whatever job you're assigned, GEO/DJRC can put you in solitary confinement until you change your mind. So a US corporation, answerable only to shareholders, can put any inmate here in a lonely dungeon if they refuse to be a slave at 12 cents an hour. The 13th Amendment abolished slavery "within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction." As far as I know, D. Ray James prison is a "place subject to their jurisdiction." Either GEO is illegally hiring "illegal aliens" or employing slave labor—or both.

What are your goals in prison?

Keeping busy. I keep busy with all manner of secretarial and legal correspondence for the 1,500-plus Hispanic men in the prison. I satisfy myself by being a jailhouse lawyer for the men, as all formal legal or intra-prison requests and grievances must be composed in persuasive English. I am one of the three or four people in the entire prison with an educated, formal comprehension of English, in that I can write, edit, compose and type formal English letters. So far, I have done work for over 250 inmates including talking to lawyers about appeals, writing motions, reviewing appeals, writing Immigration about their citizenship papers, doing treaty-transfer applications for Spanish, Canadian, Peruvian and Colombian nationals, writing grievances, writing property-location requests, contacting their lawyers and getting updates on their cases. I've assisted with divorce



In a mock photo taken before his imprisonment, Emery considers his destiny.

'I try to achieve justice, which was my job on the outside. I am more restrained in my approach, but I have not shied away from telling the truth.'

papers, in prison marriage requests, dental requests, medical requests, child-custody arrangements, bankruptcy papers and numerous grievances with GEO Group.

I write five to seven letters daily to correspondents who write me. I typically respond to every serious letter sent to me. I do a weekly newsletter of six to 18 typed pages weekly [available at cannabisculture.com and freemark.ca] and enclose a printed copy of that week's newsletter to all correspondents who wrote me that week.

What have you achieved so far in prison?

At Sea-Tac, I started my autobiography—17 chapters of a projected 100. I hope to have some completed stories online at cannabisculture.com by summer 2011. I am content that, even in this concentration camp for foreigners, I am able to help others. I try to achieve justice, which was my job on the outside. I am more restrained in my approach, but I have not shied away from telling the truth.

As an activist, you must have realized that you were rattling cages with your bold actions.

Whenever I did anything really bold, I knew there would be blowback. When we heckled the Drug Czar, it made TV news. I said, "I'll pay for that one,

no doubt." In 1997, CNN aired on its *Impact* program "A Visit with Canada's Prince of Pot." I knew there would be blowback there. When I was on the front page of the *Wall Street Journal* in 1995, the writer, Quentin Hardy, assured me that the White House would orchestrate a retaliation. I bought a full-page advertisement in Vancouver while Canada was hosting the APEC conference involving 25 heads of state. The ad condemned these nations for their punitive marijuana policies. Again, I knew there would be blowback.

After each of these bold actions, my stores, my wholesale divisions, *Cannabis Culture* magazine and my seed stores experienced huge raids by police within weeks.

Are there things you would have done differently?

I would have given far less money to my ex-girlfriends and my first wife. When I split up with my first wife or girlfriends, I felt sorry for them and made ridiculously generous payouts to them. I didn't want them to suffer. But overly generous cash amounts retarded their progress, because they became completely dependent on my payments.

The worst expenditure ever occurred when the Friendly Stranger, a retail store in Toronto, tried to trademark the name "Cannabis Culture," the name of my magazine. Over an eight-year period, what should have been easily resolved cost me \$160,000 in outrageous, exorbitant legal fees. I

should never have contested it—I could have just called it *Marc Emery's Cannabis Magazine* or *Marc Emery's Cannabis Culture Magazine* and bypassed the whole dispute. But our identity as *Cannabis Culture* is something I'm very proud of. Yet it cost way too much.

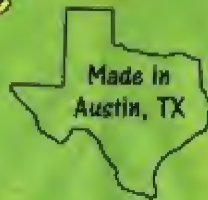
The 2001 BC Marijuana Party campaign was perhaps the greatest achievement of mine and my late business partner, Michelle Rainey, who tragically died of cancer last October. But the net cost was \$152,000 for the campaign and \$100,000 in income tax to be able to donate the \$152,000. There were many good results, but we netted only 4 percent of the vote and, in the long run, there was nothing physical to show for it. The \$250,000 would have been better spent putting legalization initiatives on state ballots throughout the US.

POT-TV was too expensive a project. In 2001 and 2002, bandwidth costs for POT-TV were \$10,000 to \$13,000 a month. With the costs of production, POT-TV cost \$200,000 to \$225,000 respectively in those years. It had no revenue stream, but it was the only cannabis-video site in the world and was hugely influential. But was it worth spending nearly a million dollars over seven years? No, it was not. Now bandwidth is so cheap—YouTube pays for it all.

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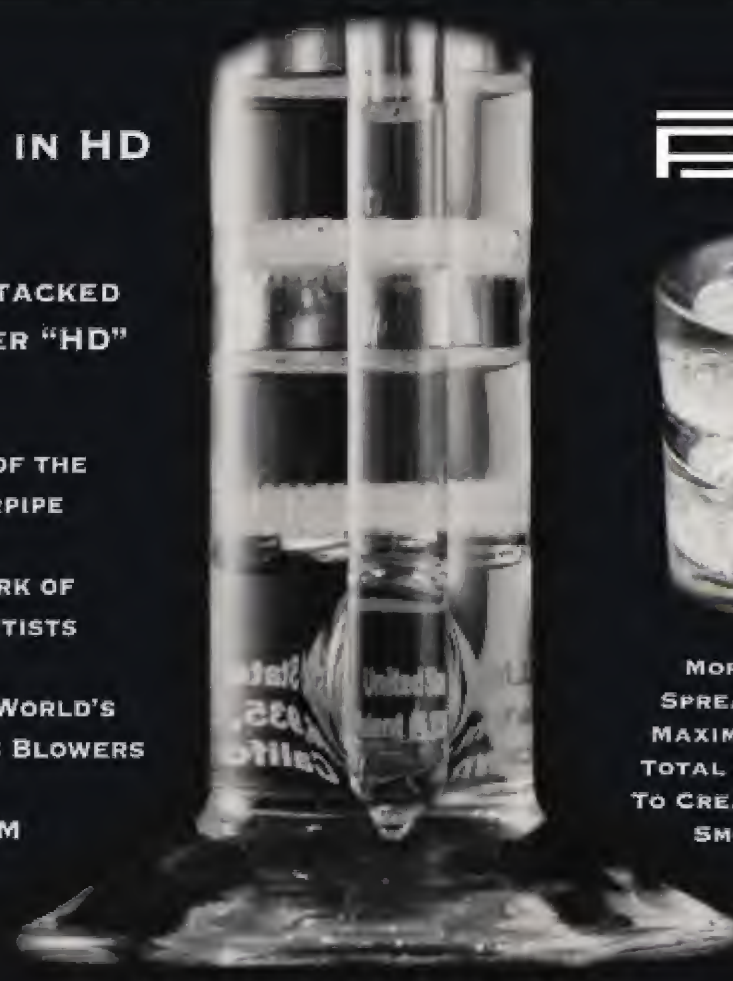
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What are you proudest of?

There are physical achievements: 15 years and 74 issues of *Cannabis Culture* magazine, which I'm immensely proud of. We held four fabulous Tokers' Bowls from 2002 to 2005. There was the legendary 2001 BC Marijuana Party election campaign with a full slate of 79 candidates. My money kick-started the Global Marijuana Marches with generous financial support in 1999 to 2005. My staff and I started the first large-scale public April 20th celebrations in 1995, now ubiquitous around the world.

Marc Emery Seeds gave money to ballot initiatives in Washington, DC, Arizona, Colorado and Alaska. In Canada, I pioneered the hemp retail movement—in fact, bongos and pipes were effectively banned in Canada when I started Hemp BC, our store, and we helped revive the cannabis movement in Canada. I'm always proud that I was pivotal in making it legal for HIGH TIMES magazine to be distributed in Canada after the Canadian government banned it from 1987 to 1994. I've been influential in the careers of so many other now-prominent activists.

What's the most important thing you would like to say to people?

I've changed the political landscape in such a way that a young cannabis enthusiast today wouldn't be able to recognize the "old days." I helped create a cannabis-culture infrastructure that, now, every activist takes for granted. People like Jack Herer, Dennis Peron and I built it from scratch, and I certainly financed a great deal of the progress. That's why I think my fate in this concentration camp for foreigners should matter. That's why "Free Marc" is not just about me—it's about the movement I helped, in huge part, to make what it is today.

What's the most important thing for the cannabis community to concentrate on at this point?

Legalization initiatives in every state where it can be done for 2012. Eight or 10 or 12 states with legalization initiatives will create the political synergy we need to have federal politicians begin the work of repealing cannabis prohibition at the federal level.

Don't wait for the big donors or the Marijuana Policy Project or NORML to organize these initiatives! Start a Facebook group and begin collecting names of signature-gathering volunteers. Contact me for advice: I have a huge

influence on individuals in the movement, and I am available all day, every day—even behind bars—to help, guide, mentor, assist and advise an initiative campaign.

Never underestimate your power as an individual to change the world. I never did, and I changed the world in many ways that carry on today!

Are you a spiritual person?

I'm not; I'm a practical person who is an idealist who possesses a heroic self-image. I believe that only action gives one peace of mind—that is, effort toward achievement is what sustains me. It's what I would recommend for any would-be activist.

I do not believe in God or religion or the supernatural. I believe we are here on earth and this is heaven—and hell—and we have to add our light to the sum of light.

How do you view your life now?

It's been incredible. And it's not over by a long shot. ✨

Visit cannabisculture.com or freemarc.ca. Write to Marc at Marc Scott Emery #40252-086, D. Ray James Correctional Institution, P.O. Box 2000, Folkston, GA 31537, USA.



Marc and Jodie in happier times at the 2009 Toronto Freedom Rally.

JODIE EMERY'S ORDEAL

Being the wife of a political prisoner sent off to a foreign country has been challenging in many ways. Not only do I suffer heartbreak and loneliness without my partner and the love of my life, but I also must be unwaveringly strong for us both and work hard to take care of him as best as I can. Marc is incredibly brilliant, courageous, noble and unlike anyone I have ever known. When I look at his body of work and achievements, as documented thoroughly in *The Principle of Pat* by Paul McKeever (on DVD and YouTube), I know why he has so much love and support from around the world. I've met thousands of people who say he saved or changed their lives; I know he's saved mine, and helped me achieve wonderful things under his guidance.

That's why I miss him so much: He has been at my side since April 2004, teaching me everything he knows. His time in prison will be a learning experience for us both, a chance to develop in ways that wouldn't be possible otherwise. Under great duress, incredible things can flourish.

Marc and I are madly in love and growing closer through this ordeal. He has suffered many injustices and so much hardship in the nightmarish US prison system, as have many others. When he finally comes back to me, we'll help strike down cannabis prohibition across North America and around the world.—Jodie Emery

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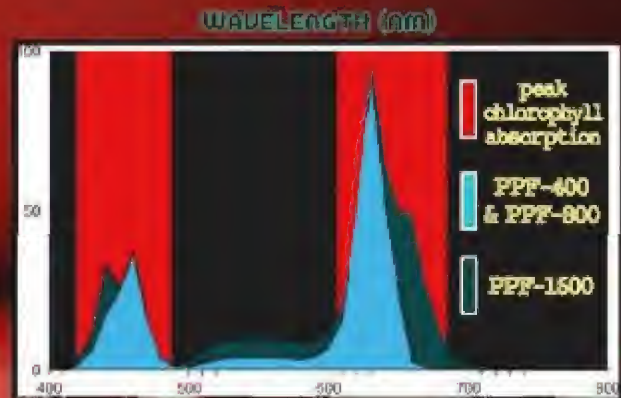
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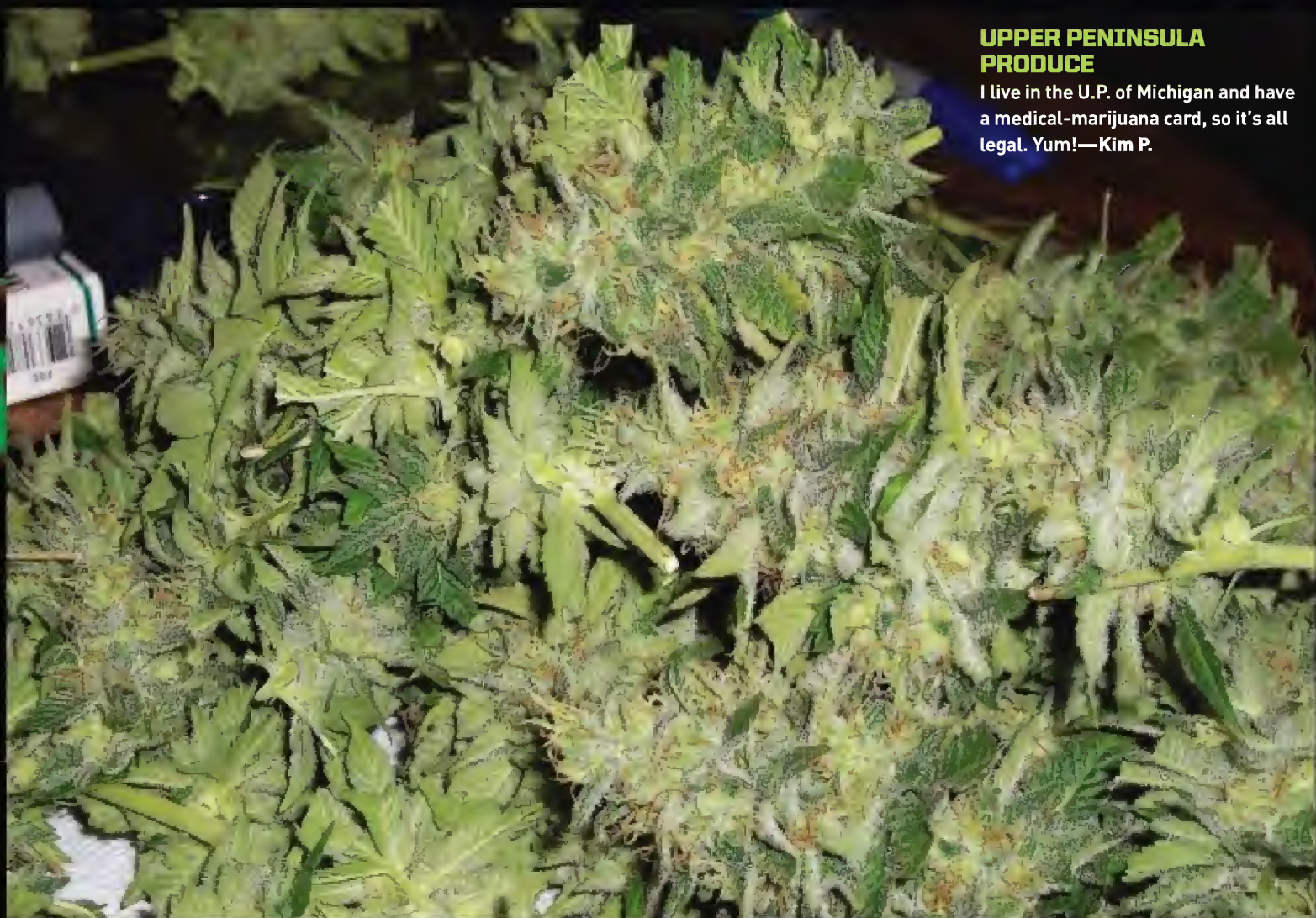
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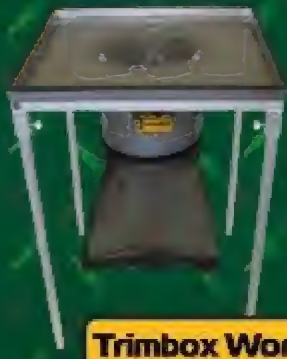
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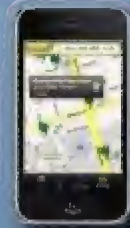
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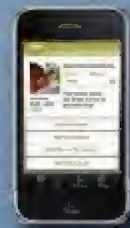
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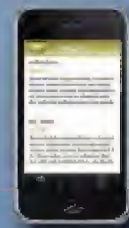
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CHANGING ATTITUDES

How SSDP got the ball rolling.

In early 2011, a handful of students attending Rowan University in New Jersey decided to start our own Students for Sensible Drug Policy chapter, and the months that followed have been a nearly surreal experience. As someone who's been a member of several politically oriented clubs on campus, I thought I knew what to expect when I signed up for a position on the executive board. To be honest, I wasn't expecting much based on my experience with other clubs. For one reason or another, Rowan isn't a very politically active campus, and in the few political clubs I've participated



Chris McCloskey

People who've never taken much of an interest in the War on Drugs or changing the school's drug policy began coming to meetings and voicing their support for our efforts.

in, it seemed like the primary goal was a desperate attempt to "activate the youth" or somehow get students involved in the political discourse. Knowing this, I wasn't very optimistic regarding the number of members we would likely attract and retain.

But it seems I was dead wrong.

Not only were our first several meetings a knock-out success, but we've attracted a broad range of support from people whom I never would have expected to get so involved. It turns out that Rowan has several drug-related policies that have drastically affected many of the students on campus in very negative ways, most notoriously the housing sanctions that are imposed on students who've been caught with illicit drugs such as marijuana in their dorms. These incidents have led to the university branding certain stu-

dents as "dangerous to the community" and subsequently evicting them from campus housing. This has left many students without a place to stay in the middle of the school semester—and while some are able to find housing options off-campus or to commute from home, others are not so fortunate. Most disturbing is the fact that so few people knew about this policy, even among the teachers and school staff. What surprised me even more was how strongly these same professors felt about the issue once we began to vocalize our concerns. In addition to support from pro-

fessors, our ranks have swelled with students who've had friends and loved ones whose lives were adversely affected by this issue. People who've never taken much of an interest in the War on Drugs or changing the school's drug policy began coming to meetings and voicing their support for our efforts. Many of these same people have now come to realize that the school's policy isn't the only thing at fault, and within a few months have become ardent supporters of ending the War on Drugs and all the atrocities that result from it. And while I still attend many meetings of the other political clubs on campus, our fledgling SSDP chapter is the only organization in which I truly feel I have been able to make a real, concrete difference in the world.

—Chris McCloskey, founding member of SSDP at Rowan University

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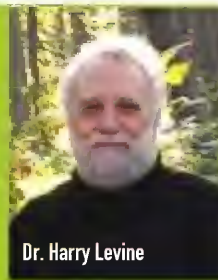
An NYC professor reveals the racial bias of pot prohibition.

Dr. Harry Levine is a professor of sociology at Queens College in New York City. He is responsible for shedding light on the incredible racial disparity reflected in marijuana arrests in big American cities. His continuing research, featured in a recent *Philadelphia Weekly* cover story, notes a 4-to-1 disparity in the number of blacks versus whites arrested for weed in Philadelphia. He also worked with the Prop. 19 campaign to show California's racial bias in marijuana arrests.

Dr. Levine presented his report, "Marijuana Arrest Crusade: Racial Bias and Police Policy in New York City, 1997-2007," at the 2009 NORML National Conference in Portland, OR. He reports: "Young whites—18 to 25—use marijuana at much higher rates than young blacks or Latinos. A little over 50 percent of the people in New York City are blacks and Latinos, but about 90 percent of the arrests for marijuana are blacks and Latinos. Non-Hispanic whites, as the census calls them, are about 36 percent of the population of New York; in 2009, they were less than 10 percent of the arrests."

How does this happen in a decrim state like New York, where possession of up to an ounce has been a merely ticketable offense since 1977? "Cops disproportionately patrol in certain neighborhoods," he says. "They do loads of stop-and-frisks. They illegally go into pockets, or they trick suspects into bringing out marijuana, and then they make arrests." Here's the trick: "Once the marijuana is outside the pocket, it is in public view, which is still a misdemeanor subject to arrest in New York."

Dr. Levine's academic work and ability to speak publicly and precisely on the racial injustice of urban marijuana policing illustrate yet another reason why marijuana prohibition must come to an end.—Russ Belville, NORML Outreach Coordinator



Dr. Harry Levine

ask dr. mitch



Dr. Mitch,
What's the deal with burn-
ing hemp paper at funerals?

Hi LJP,
Burning paper products at funerals is a Buddhist tradition. Legend has it that the Chinese bureaucrat Cai Lun was trying to increase the sale of paper back in the year 105. He feigned his own death, had people burn paper at his funeral, and then pretended that he'd come back to life. Sounds like a good marketing trick.

How come some herb makes me tired but some doesn't?

Rip V.W.

Hi Rip,
Anandamide, the body's own cannabinoid, is involved in the sedating effects of lots of substances. THC acts a lot like anandamide, but cannabidiol (CBD) inhibits the uptake of anandamide. So a high-THC strain might make folks tired, but a high-CBD strain probably won't. Of course, we'd know more if researchers were freer to experiment with a range of strains, but our hands are tied by prohibition!

Has there ever been a hemp car?

Chim-Chim

Hi Chim-Chim,
Yes. Henry Ford used hemp to fashion a car body back in the 1940s. In 2012, the Kestrel is supposed to be available. It's an electric vehicle with a chassis of hemp fiber and resin. The word is that the car is incredibly efficient because the body is so light-weight.

I know that marijuana is supposed to make sex better, but what parts of sex is it supposed to affect?

Curious Y.

Hi Curious,
It's hard to get funding for research on this topic anymore. Nevertheless, surveys from back in the day report that cannabis enhances orgasm and makes people feel more "connected" during sex. Also, many people report that they are more attentive lovers when using the plant. Individual experiences vary, so we all might need to do some experimenting of our own.

Dr. Mitch Earleywine, Ph.D., is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany. He is the author of Understanding Marijuana and The Parents' Guide to Marijuana. Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at 420research@gmail.com.

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eral rule, if you do plan to juice your cannabis along with fruits and vegetables, make sure you're using organic nutrients for your plants.

Next, my mission was to find the right combination of raw fruits and vegetables, the perfect strain of cannabis to juice, and the proper adjustment of the THC glycerin dose for daily consumption (as a treatment for pain, for example).

Starting with my house strain, Blue Dream, I chose some branches from the bottom and clipped them fresh; I also started getting my fruits and vegetables ready. I had been to a local Living Temple in Huntington Beach, CA, where I purchased some organic Meyer lemons. Meyer lemon juice is wonderful, and I figured it would cut through the tangy buds and pungent flavor of the Blue Dream with its acidity. If you consume this drink with some THC glycerin added, I promise that you will have a wonderful day. ✨

Recently, I've been practicing my craft at a vegan/vegetarian restaurant that specializes in raw cuisine. Prior to this, I'd never worked at a place that served raw food, where a chef doesn't need the standard setup, including a stove, an oven, etc. On my first day there, I decided to investigate this new world with an open mind.

"Raw food" is a lifestyle in which uncooked, unprocessed and often organic foods account for the majority of one's diet. Raw foodists typically believe that the greater the percentage of raw food one eats, the greater the health benefits. A "raw diet" is usually equated with raw veganism, in which only uncooked plant foods are eaten. Raw-food diets may include a selection of fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds (including sprouted whole grains). The theory behind raw food is that our bodies run better on natural products, so the more high-quality natural food you put into your body, the better you'll feel.

How can we incorporate cannabis extracts into raw-food dishes and juices? I have found that most raw-food preparations involve some form of food processing—grinding, chopping, blending, puréeing and so forth—so you will need a juicer, a Vitamix blender or a food processor. There is also usually a binder involved: honey, agave or, in our case, THC glycerin.

At the restaurant, I've been learning that certain vegetables can be juiced and their flavors masked with other vegetables that have a pungent aroma and flavor, such as ginger root, Meyer lemons, limes or various berries. You can hide the taste of greens such as kale, spinach and collard with these flavors. I've chosen glycerin as the THC medium since it's sweet and you can control the flavor according to the strain you use for the extract. As a gen-

MIKE'S MEDICATED MEYER LEMONADE

- 4 Meyer lemons, preferably organic
- 3 medium-sized whole carrots, cleaned and washed
- 2 stalks of celery, cleaned and washed
- 1 oz THC glycerin
- 1/2 organic cucumber
- 3 small tangerines
- 1 small piece of fresh ginger root
- 3 small branches of fresh cannabis (buds, leaves and stems)

You'll need a juicer to make this recipe. There are many new juicers on the market that are affordable on any budget, so please buy one for your health and get juicing today!

Thoroughly wash all your fruits and vegetables, and make sure your cannabis is free of pests and mold before you juice it. When you're ready, turn the juicer on and get going. As a general rule, I usually get the harder stuff juiced first. Be sure to have a large glass handy and add as much of the glycerin as you like. (If you use the whole amount, you will be *extremely* high. If that's what you're going for, enjoy.)

Once the THC glycerin is at the bottom of the glass, turn on the juicer and start adding the vegetables one at a time. In this case, since we're using glycerin, we want the acid from the Meyer lemons and tangerines first. You can leave the peels on; just make sure the pieces fit in the mouth of the juicer.

Slowly add all of the ingredients in the recipe. If your juice isn't sweet enough or tastes too much like vegetables or cannabis, you can add a sweetener to the mix. Keep in mind that ginger has a strong flavor, so be careful not to use too much. Stones 1-2.



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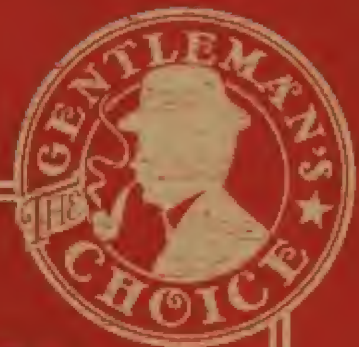
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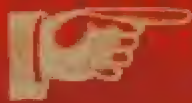
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LEGALIZATION LOOMS LARGE

How close are we? The next 18 months will tell.

In NORML's 40-year battle for civil justice, the era of reform can be broken down into four epochs: decriminalization, decriminalization, medicalization and legalization.

From 1970 to 1973, NORML lobbied and litigated on the basis that prison sentences for minor cannabis-related offenses were too severe. Back then, in almost every state, getting popped with even a couple of joints led to arrests and felony charges—often leading to prison sentences. When the Nixon-appointed Shafer Commission issued its report in 1972, the basic recommendation was that adults caught with small amounts of



Medicalization has aptly demonstrated that cannabis can be safely used by millions of citizens and effectively sold on Main Street.

cannabis should not be arrested, let alone face felony charges and possible incarceration. Unfortunately, President Nixon declared the report dead on arrival and refused to implement his own commission's sensible decrim recommendation.

Undaunted, NORML founder Keith Stroup formed a nationwide "road show" of lobbyists that featured former attorneys general, prominent physicians and medical researchers, academicians and current and former government officials. In every state visited, they sought to have the Shafer Commission's recommendation adopted as a starting point for major reforms in the future—notably legalization.

In 1973, Oregon became the first state to officially decriminalize the possession of one ounce of cannabis by adults. Before the presidential election of the extremely anti-pot Ronald Reagan in 1980, 10 state legislatures had chosen to adopt decriminalization, including political bellwether states such as California, New York and Ohio.

Today, 13 states and a number of large municipalities, including Seattle; Philadelphia; Madison, WI; and Ann Arbor, MI, have decriminalized cannabis.

Seeking to reschedule the herb, NORML started the entire fight for medical cannabis in 1972 when it launched one of the longest lawsuits in US history, *NORML vs. DEA*, which was litigated from 1972 to 1994. In 1975, with NORML's help, George Washington University English professor Robert Randall successfully sued the District of Columbia to use medical cannabis for his acute-angle glaucoma. From the launch of *NORML vs. DEA* in 1972 until, arguably, the signing of medical-cannabis legislation by Governor Jon Corzine of New Jersey in January 2010, numerous activist-led initiatives

and lobbying efforts produced significant policy victories, including 36 states passing "memorializations" imploring the federal government to reschedule cannabis so that it could be used for medicinal purposes. Even more notably, 15 states and the District of Columbia passed a variety of progressive improvements ranging from bona fide legal protections for qualified patients to allowing the taxed and regulated retail sale of cannabis products.

January 2010 may have been the high-water mark politically for cannabis patients. Since that time, reform-minded states have become increasingly

restrictive so as to render any improvements to their laws moot. Secondly, the pharmaceuticalization of cannabis looms on the horizon. Currently, when staff members from organizations such as NORML, Americans for Safe Access or the ACLU lobby elected policymakers, the politicians invariably exclaim: "We support limited patient access ... but you're not turning this state into another *California!*" The political blowback from medical cannabis now appears complete, with politicians in the majority in a number of states—Montana, New Mexico and Michigan—looking to roll back their states' medical-cannabis laws.

Of course, the primary goal for all rational cannabis consumers and activists is to seek an end to prohibition so that the responsible use of cannabis by adults is of no concern to the government.

Medicalization has aptly demonstrated that cannabis can be safely used by millions of citizens and effectively sold on Main Street. However, neither decriminalization nor medicalization has reduced the massive number of cannabis arrests annually, let alone the price of cannabis or the government's reefer madness. For example, med-pot patients can still lawfully be denied employment, as well as the ability to own a firearm, qualify for organ transplants, retain custody of their children or live on a college campus. For these reasons, the next 18 months represent the greatest window ever for reformers to pass legalization initiatives in states such as California, Colorado, Oregon and Washington, and legislation in states such as Massachusetts, Maine and Vermont.

—Allen St. Pierre, Executive Director of NORML

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Price: various

Contact: 420 Grow Systems, 877-563-5632, 420growsystem.com

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Price: \$249.99

Contact: HID Hut, 888-678-8565, hidhut.com



Light Bank

Ganja growers love good fluorescent lighting because it's cheap and doesn't generate much heat, two important factors when cultivating cannabis indoors. The new **ViaVolt T5 Fluorescent Fixtures** work perfectly for germination, propagation (cloning), mother-plant maintenance or low-wattage vegetative growth. T5 is the ideal bulb type, and these units all boast strong steel housing in comparison to some of the rickety versions we've tested. These fixtures are available in three different sizes for flexibility among multiple uses and requirements.

Price: 2' four-lamp, \$93.99; 4' four-lamp, \$127.99; 4' eight-lamp, \$229.99

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Welcome to our mini-section devoted wholly to medicinal strains, news, uses, developments, activism, politics ... everything and anything, really, that is medically related to marijuana. This is your *Cannabis Clinic!*

Cultivation Tips for New Patients Growing Their Own

It occurred to me recently that this is my column and I can pretty much write whatever I want, so long as it's medically related. As most of you know, what I usually write about—what I prefer to *always* be writing about—is cannabis cultivation. So why can't I write about growing medical marijuana here? I think I can, so let's give it a try.

There are a lot of concerned patients out there who are growing medical cannabis for the first time. Many of them ask me questions that pertain directly to their personal health, so let's go over a few key concerns.

Q: How important are the nutrients I'm using to the health of my buds and myself?

A: What you feed your plants is of huge consequence to the final product and very relevant to your personal health. I often preach that "less is more" when it comes to nutrient programs. The healthiest way to grow is to let the genetic potential of the plant do as much of the work as possible. Obviously, that starts with obtaining good genetics, but when it comes to feeding, the best way to look at nutrients is as a supplement. Of course, you'll need to periodically feed your plants, but as a medical patient, you're not growing for yield—you're growing for quality. Pumping plants up with tons of nutrients is for commercial growers trying to produce high volumes of cannabis. You will surely take quality over quantity when it comes to your health.

I recommend that when you feed your plants, you do so only once or twice a week unless you need to treat a deficiency, etc. I also recommend halving the dosage recommended on the label



Juanita la Lagrimosa: An epic Spanish medicinal strain with a nearly equal CBD/THC ratio.

Medicinal Strain of the Month: Juanita la Lagrimosa

On a recent trip to Spain, I encountered—not for the first time—a truly unique strain called Juanita la Lagrimosa ("Juanita the Tearful"). However, this encounter was different in that I also uncovered her history and met with her breeders at Reggae Seeds.

A parent of the highly touted medicinal strain Cannatonic, Juanita is a cannabidiol-rich varietal that tests as high as 8.2% CBD. Her lineage is NYC Diesel (Soma Seeds) x La Reina Madre ("The Queen Mother," a Spanish strain from Delicatessen Seeds). The interesting thing here is that neither of these parents expresses high CBD levels in lab testing, thereby supporting the theory that CBD-rich strains are mainly a product of genetic mutation. In this case, it could have been a mutant phenotype of either parent (assuming they were raised from seed), or else the hybrid offspring of the two parents may have created a mutant seed of its own.

Either way, the final genetic product is *sativa*-dominant, with a *sativa/indica* ratio of 75/25. The high of Juanita is therefore cerebral, surprisingly potent and very uplifting, with a slow creeper effect that ends in a definitive feeling of well-being. The breeders took special care to create a THC/CBD ratio that is nearly equal, which a number of patients and researchers believe creates the best medicinal balance in terms of functionality and treating symptoms. By most standards, Juanita la Lagrimosa is one of the very best medicinal strains out there today.

or instructions. You can always increase the dose if need be, but you cannot remove what you've already put in (at least not without a lot of effort). If you're not working with mixable concentrates, simply dilute your nutrients with purified or distilled water.

Q: How important is flushing during the flowering process?

A: Almost every grower, commercial or personal, flushes their medium these days. Most people do it only in the last week or two of flowering; however, this is a situation where "*more* is better." Without a doubt, flushing should occur for the final two weeks of flowering if you're a medical grower seeking to produce truly healthy herb. This process should consist of a

regimen of freshwater-only applications (i.e., zero nutrients) at a rate of approximately every other day. The bigger leaves will turn yellow and begin to fall off. This is okay and good; feel free to pluck off a few.

Really savvy growers implement a flushing program that runs concurrently with the regular feeding schedule. For example, some growers may feed with a nutrient solution on day one, then flush completely with purified water on day two and give the plant nothing on day three, allowing the medium to dry almost completely. Not only does this encourage better root growth, but it also helps prevent nutrient lock-up from dissolved salts and keeps excess residue buildup out of the

flowers you'll soon be smoking.

Whether or not you choose to flush during the first two-thirds of your flowering cycle is up to you, but make no mistake: A two-week flush at the very end is the healthiest option for growing medicinal cannabis.

Connecticut Joining the Ranks?

According to NORML's website, there are currently 16 states (plus the District of Columbia) with active medical-marijuana programs. Will Connecticut become the 17th?

Many people don't remember this, but in 2007, the Connecticut state legislature voted to make the medicinal use of marijuana legal—but then-governor M. Jodi Rell promptly vetoed it. (What a dick!)

However, in March of this year, CT lawmakers started revisiting the issue with a hearing to discuss legalizing marijuana for people with serious medical problems, as well as decriminalizing the possession of small amounts for people without a prescription.

It now appears that the legislature and the current governor, Dannel Malloy, are poised to pass these measures with a lot of public backing. In fact, an overwhelming 79 percent of voters told pollsters that they approve the legalization of medical marijuana, with only 17 percent opposed. A separate bill being considered would reduce the penalties for people with less than 1 ounce of marijuana; they would be charged with an infraction—the equivalent of a parking ticket—that carries a \$100 fine.

The decriminalization measure plays into Governor Malloy's continuing efforts to reduce the state's prison population, which is now at its lowest level in decades. Several states have already made the same decriminalization move, including Massachusetts (2009) and nearby New York (way back in 1979).

California Medical Cup

If you're reading this, it's likely close to or just after May 25—and that means the HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup is only one month away! If you missed last year's first annual Medical Cup in California, don't blow it again. We'll all be in San Francisco the weekend of June 25, so come hang out and meet the HT crew—and bring your best meds! ✨ Got medical questions? Pass 'em over to Nico at nico@hightimes.com.

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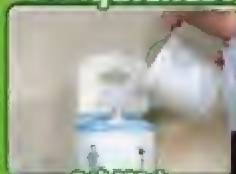
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INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT: THRIPS

Tips on preventing and eliminating these tiny terrors from your medical-cannabis crops. By Joe Bender, Connoisseur Crop Solutions, LLC

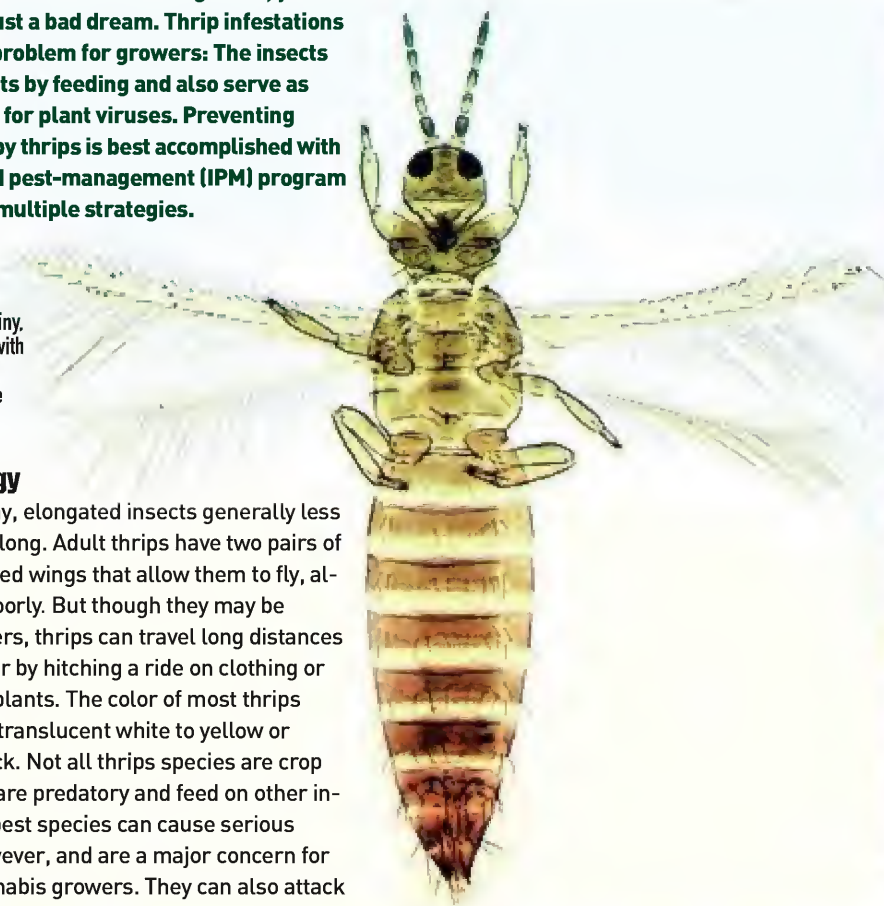
Thrips are more than a nuisance—if they make a visit to your medical-cannabis garden, you'll wish it was just a bad dream. Thrip infestations are a major problem for growers: The insects damage plants by feeding and also serve as transmitters for plant viruses. Preventing infestations by thrips is best accomplished with an integrated pest-management (IPM) program that utilizes multiple strategies.

Adult thrips are tiny, slender insects with fringed wings, meaning they are very mobile.

Thrip Biology

Thrips are tiny, elongated insects generally less than 1.5 mm long. Adult thrips have two pairs of narrow, fringed wings that allow them to fly, albeit rather poorly. But though they may be mediocre flyers, thrips can travel long distances on the wind or by hitching a ride on clothing or transported plants. The color of most thrips ranges from translucent white to yellow or brown to black. Not all thrips species are crop pests; some are predatory and feed on other insects. Crop-pest species can cause serious damage, however, and are a major concern for medical-cannabis growers. They can also attack humans and inflict annoying, itchy and somewhat painful bites.

The worst species of cannabis-pest thrips is *Thrips tabaci*. *T. tabaci* has a similar appearance and lifecycle to those of *Frankliniella occidentalis*, which is the most damaging thrips species for many other crops (and a significant cannabis pest as well). One major difference between these two species is that *F. occidentalis* may complete its life cycle in a shorter period of time. *T. tabaci* requires about 19 days to complete its cycle from egg to adult, although the actual period is temperature-dependent, with warmer temperatures speeding up the process. The lifecycle of *T. tabaci* begins when the adult female lays her eggs in leaf, stem or flower tissue using a saw-blade-like ovipositor. After about four or five days, the eggs hatch and larvae emerge. Pest thrips species actively feed on plant sap during their two larval stages. *T. tabaci* larvae complete their development in about nine days, after which they drop from the plant and pupate in the soil. Adult *T. tabaci* emerge from the soil in about four to seven days and begin feeding, breeding and dispersing.



Thrips feed by puncturing the plant and sucking out water and nutrients.



Notice that the pest damage is all near the center vein of the leaf.

Crop Damage

Thrips feed within young, tightly crowded terminal growth; this feeding behavior, combined with their tiny size, makes it difficult to detect them early. Growers are likely to notice feeding damage before they notice the insects on their plants. Thrips pierce plant cells using their rasping (scraping) mouthparts and then feed on the cell contents. Plant cells damaged by thrips turn whitish in color; leaves become speckled with white and look similar to leaves damaged by spider mites or lace bugs. Thrip feces may be visible as black spots on leaf surfaces, and thrips may be seen walking on the soil surface upon close examination. Leaf scarring by thrips may cause deformation of the expanding leaves. Plants damaged by thrips lose their photosynthetic capacity, resulting in decreased crop yields.



Depending on the type, thrips can lay their eggs either inside the plant or on the plant's surface.

Virus Transmission

In addition to the physical damage caused by feeding, thrips are one of the worst vectors (or pathogen transmitters) of plant viruses that affect cannabis. Larval and adult thrips acquire these viruses by feeding on infected plants. The adult thrips then fly to healthy plants and infect them through feeding.

These viruses cause symptoms that include stunting, deformed foliage, speckling, and a mosaic yellowing pattern on infected plants. Plants suspected of being infected should be destroyed to prevent the viruses from being transmitted to nearby healthy plants, since infected plants cannot be cured. The viral infection of mother plants is especially problematic, because without using special tissue-culture techniques, virus-free clones cannot be obtained from infected mothers.

A closer look at a thrip's damage on a leaf's surface.





Sticky traps are a good idea even without a thrips problem as they can be an early indicator of an upcoming problem.

HOW TO CONTROL THRIPS

Medical-cannabis growers can prevent these problems by utilizing a multipronged IPM approach that includes using cultural practices to suppress thrips, releasing beneficial arthropods to prey on them, and spraying organic or low-toxicity insecticides when necessary.

Cultural Practices

Cultural practices are a grower's first line of defense against pest problems. As a result, growers should consider implementing several kinds of thrip-suppressive techniques.

Plants fertilized with high levels of nitrogen fertilizer are more susceptible to attack by *F. occidentalis*—as well as more prone to infection by the tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV)—than plants fertilized with moderate nitrogen levels. Growers should therefore be careful to give their cannabis plants the appropriate level of nitrogen for optimal growth and avoid supplying excessive rates.

Growers should also use sticky traps to monitor for thrips in their facilities. Hang these sticky traps over plants and near air inlets and outlets. Several different-colored sticky traps will work, but blue traps are the most effective at attracting thrips and helping growers detect their attacks early.

It has also been discovered that UV-reflective mulch (i.e., reflective plastic sheeting) disrupts thrips' ability to locate host plants, thereby decreasing their populations when used to cover soil. (UV-reflective mulch also decreases the rate of TSWV infection.) But keep in mind that UV-reflective mulch is best suited to outdoor gardens.

Thrips will also cling to brightly colored clothing, so avoid entering a grow facility with bright

clothes that were worn while working or playing outdoors. Thrips can use you to hitch a ride directly into your garden!

Thrip-proof netting can be used to seal the air inlets and outlets of a grow facility, but the netting's very fine mesh restricts airflow significantly. Ventilation systems may need to be modified to compensate for the reduced airflow caused by thrip-proof netting. The netting also needs to be cleaned frequently to maintain normal airflow.

Beneficials

Beneficial biological agents such as predatory mites should be a grower's second line of defense against pests and can be an effective option for thrips control.

Horticulturists have found that releasing the predatory mites *Amblyseius cucumeris* and/or *Amblyseius barkeri* twice weekly, at a rate of three per mature leaf, is an effective measure against high pest pressure by thrips. (Conversely, fewer mites per leaf can be effective against low pest pressure by thrips.) *A. cucumeris* and *A. barkeri* will feed on pollen if they can't find prey, so providing cattail pollen as an alternative food



Ladybugs, predatory mites and aphid wasps all feast on young thrips.

source will aid in the survival of these predatory mites when pest thrips populations are low.

Insecticides

Using predatory mites in a garden doesn't restrict growers from spraying insecticides to control thrips as well. Two effective organic insecticides with very low toxicity to humans can be used in conjunction with *Amblyseius* mites to help control thrips. These insecticides are Azadirachtin (AZA), which is the active compound in neem oil, and spinosad. AZA has little to no activity against predatory mites, including *Amblyseius*, while being very effective at controlling thrips. Spinosad is harmless to *Amblyseius* while highly toxic to thrips.

An insecticide-rotation program is important to prevent resistance from developing in thrips. Spinosad and AZA have two different modes of action and are therefore suitable to be used in rotation for thrips control.

Remember, if thrips threaten your medicinal plants, you're not alone; thrips are a worldwide pest. Implementing a well-planned IPM program is the best way to prevent problems with these pesky insects! 🌿

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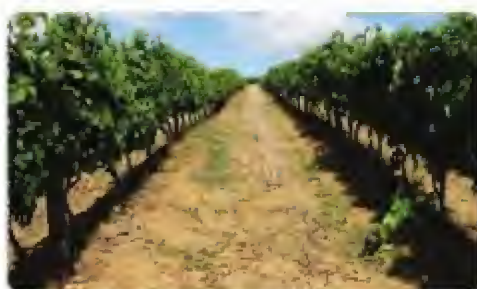
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DEAR DANKO

ANSWERS BY DANNY DANKO

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

Hello, bud, and thanks for all the great information that I read each month in HIGH TIMES. Knowledge is the key to success, and it's great to be able to read and research the best ways to grow your medicine. I have a few questions that I would like your input on.

First, please explain flowering or start time. When I'm researching strains, it will typically say that the flowering period lasts eight weeks or 12 weeks, etc. My question is: eight weeks from when? Once you start the plants on a 12/12 schedule, or the roughly 10 to 14 days after you introduce the 12/12 when the flowering characteristics start showing?

Secondly, I've been using clones for a long time. I keep very detailed journals. Sometimes the strain will take nine weeks, and sometimes the same strain takes over 11 weeks. I notice that in the summer it's shorter (when it's humid here), while winter seems to take an additional two or more weeks (when it's bone dry with low humidity here). Is humidity the main variable? What else can influence the duration of the flowering process and the ripening of the trichomes?

Thanks in advance, and keep up the awesome work helping everybody grow their own medicine. Bless you!

Diamond Dave

Dear DD,

Thanks for the kind words! The staff of HIGH TIMES works very hard, and it's nice to receive encouragement and support from readers amidst all our deadlines.

As for flowering times, seed companies estimate the time starting from the day that flowering is induced (i.e., the start of the 12/12-hour on/off cycle that is used to induce flowering). They don't incorporate the vegetative time because that duration is determined by each individual grower based on their own preference.

As you note, various phenotypes will ripen at different times, and many environmental factors—such as heat and humidity—can have a drastic effect on flowering times as well. The most important thing is not to adhere too strictly to the suggested or typical flowering time, but instead to closely inspect trichomes for signs of ripeness.

Use a magnifying glass, loupe or microscope to get a much closer look than you can with your eyes alone. Determine whether the trichomes are clear, cloudy or amber. When the majority are cloudy, you're ready to begin harvesting. Some strains, especially longer-flowering *sativas*, have two or even three different harvest windows that each provide different flavors and effects.

THE GOOD SEED

Where can I find a safe and reliable place to order seeds? I've been searching online for days now, and a lot of what I'm seeing looks like scams. If possible, could you please provide me with a list of proven quality and secure sites so I don't get ripped off? Thank you for your help.

B.A.G.

Dear B.A.G.,

I get this question quite a bit, and rather than being forced to choose one or two seed banks to suggest here in print (and risk offending friends and advertisers in the process), I finally came up with a solution in 2007. That's the year I started the HIGH TIMES Seed Bank Hall of Fame. I chose 10 solid, outstanding seed companies and five defunct but hugely influential ones. Since then, I've added 10 more seed companies in our August '09 issue and another 10 in our June '11 issue last month. Check out hightimes.com/seedbankhalloffame for more info and to read write-ups on all 35 Hall of Famers and follow the links to their websites.

Keep in mind that some of these companies will not ship to the United States and certain other parts of the world. Find a reputable distributor and always insist that you get your beans in their original breeder packaging. This discourages the unscrupulous from mislabeling or pulling the old switcheroo.

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START ME UP

It's been a few years since I've grown, and I have a few basic questions before I start up again. I've chosen to go with both aeroponics and LED lighting. Each shop I go to claims their products are the best, obviously. I'm looking to grow no more than 20 plants; however, I'm looking for the highest quality possible. I live in Southern California and have many options to choose from. Money does matter, but quality comes first. Thanks for your time and help.

Sunsetkush

Dear Sunsetkush,

Aeroponics can be tricky for the beginner. The aeroponic growing method consists of misting plant roots with a nutrient solution. The roots dangle in the air, receiving food and oxygen at an accelerated rate compared with any other type of growing technique. The tough part is maintaining the proper temperature and pH of the nutrient solution as well as keeping the misters from getting clogged or dislodged.

If you choose aeroponics, be aware that the method is unforgiving. Problems can quickly arise and lead to huge setbacks (or worse). Get yourself some thermometers and meters to measure the pH and ppm (parts per million) of the nutrient solution.

As for LED lighting, few of the models on the market have impressed me so far and the prices

seem to be all over the place, though they're inevitably coming down. My feeling is that the technology hasn't caught up yet to the production you'll get from high-intensity discharge (HID) lighting like metal halide (MH) or high-pressure sodium (HPS).

PREDICTING YIELDS

When growing indoors from clones, what's the average yield for a plant approximately 3 feet tall? I know it varies with the strain, but give me a ballpark figure. I plan on using a hydroponic drip system with a 600-watt HPS as the lighting. I have an 8' x 8' x 6' area to use for growing and I want to grow up to 36 plants total. How much space should I dedicate to clones/mothers and how much for flowering? I absolutely appreciate any help, so thanks!

D.P.

Dear D.P.,

I would generally expect that a 3-foot plant should yield at least a quarter-pound of dry bud when finished flowering. That's 4 ounces per plant at that height, and it shouldn't be difficult to achieve using good lighting with proper environmental control and cultivation practices. The best way to achieve this kind of yield is to use large containers for the roots, with 5 gallons being the minimum. I've seen indoor plants in 35-gallon containers that can yield a

pound, although they also grow considerably larger than 3 feet.

If you separate your area into something like a 3' x 3' area for vegetating clones and mother plants and 5' x 5' for flowering, you'll have enough light from the 600-watt bulb. If your veg space will be smaller, you may want to switch to two 400-watt bulbs or supplement the single 600-watt bulb with more light to get to the outer areas of your grow space. You can always move up to a 1,000-watt light, but this will create more heat, compounding problems in a small space quickly.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

I have some questions for you. First question: The setup is hydroponic and includes an "RO Water Filtration System." Just wondering if you were familiar with this system and what nutrients I should be using with it?

Also, how long will the nutrients/food stay in the water system, and when should I add more? And what do you think of a self-feeder or some type of automatic feeding system? What temperature should the water be, and what's the whole thing with pH? (Which level is good and which is bad?) How do you lower or raise pH?

Also, I would like to know about cloning. At what age or stage can you cut a clone? Where on the mother plant do you take the clone from? What type of gel or powder do I put on the clone to get it to root and grow properly? And finally, what type of box or container do I put a clone in?

Greenman

Dear Greenman,

Wow, that sure is a lot of questions! I'll do my best. "RO water filtration" means that all of the water used goes through a reverse-osmosis machine, slowly dripping out water with a ppm level under 20 and a pH of 6.0 (tap water is typically at ppm levels of 300 to 400 with a wide variation in pH). This means you'll have to add all the nutrients, especially the micronutrients that were filtered out during the RO process.

I recommend draining reservoirs and replenishing them with new water and nutrients every one to two weeks—less often. Automatic watering systems are great, but you still need to be there every day to make sure that you don't have leaks or clogs in your system. Hydroponic nutrient solutions should be kept at a temperature between 60°F and 70°F with a pH level between 5.5 and 6.2. Use heaters or chillers to achieve the optimal levels at all times. You can raise or lower pH by using "pH up" or "pH down" solutions, which are available at garden-supply shops. (I don't really recommend using homemade remedies such as baking soda or vinegar solutions.)

Clones are best taken during the vegetative stage of a plant's growth. That's why good growers keep mother plants around of their favorite strains that perpetually remain in the vegetative stage in order to take clones or cuttings from them. To take a clone, cut on a diagonal with a sharp razor just under the node where the leaf meets the stem. You want to have three or four nodes above the cut, so it should be about a 3-inch shoot. Dip the cut end in the rooting gel or powder of your choice (they all work about the same and contain rooting hormones and anti-fungal agents). Immediately place your clone into the pre-moistened medium of your choice (wet

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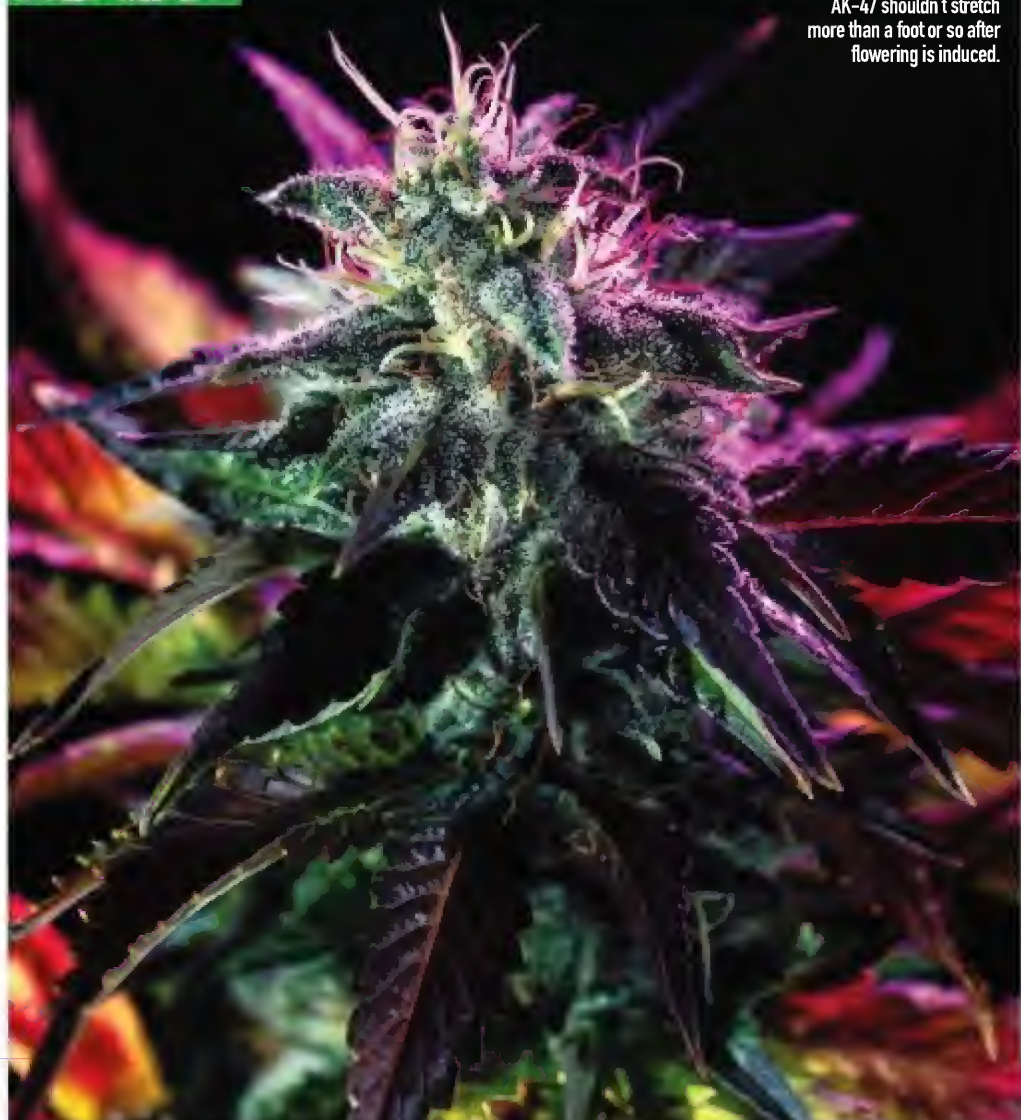


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HEAT JARNA



AK-47 shouldn't stretch more than a foot or so after flowering is induced.

soiless potting mixes work fine), pop it under some fluorescent T5 bulbs, and keep the area warm and humid. You should see roots within five to 12 days.

FORCED FLOWERS

I'm curious to know if it's possible for environmental stresses, such as extended cold periods overnight, to induce flowering. I've had plants in their vegetative stage for about two months under an 18/6-hour light schedule. After looking over the plants, I discovered pre-flowering at the nodes. I'm running five strains, so I don't believe genetics are in play. The windows are open overnight, and the temperature is regularly at 10°C or even slightly lower at times. Can low nighttime temperatures induce flowering without my changing the light schedule to 12/12? I'm a little perplexed. Thanks!

Dear Yuri,

around 50°F) are causing this issue, but it's more likely that the plants, at two months of age, are naturally showing pre-flowers in anticipation of "fall." Many different strains exhibit pre-flowers after a certain amount of time in their vegetative stage. I'd only get concerned if they all continued into the full flowering stage without a change in lighting to the 12/12 cycle, especially if they're not supposed to be auto-flowering strains.

STRETCHED OUT

The best feeling in the world: looking out off your back deck first thing in the morning at the beautiful Colorado mountains, HIGH TIMES and a bowl in hand! Can't get enough of your magazine! Therefore, it only makes sense that the best answer would come from the best source. I've been flowering my AKs for about six weeks now. The buds that are forming are starting to stretch out to incredible lengths, spreading across 3 to 6 inches of stem in just a few days' time! My room is completely lightproof, so there any other deficiencies in my grow that could have caused this vegetative-looking growth? Thank you to everyone at HIGH TIMES!

Michael F.

Dear Michael,

We really appreciate your kind words about the magazine. Since you say there aren't any light leaks, there are a few other factors that could be making your plants stretch. How close are they to your light source, and is that light source powerful enough to illuminate all of your garden? HID lights should be anywhere from 1 to 2 feet from the plant tops (400-watt reflectors can be closer than 1,000-watters, of course). Fluorescents and LEDs should be even closer, with some at just 2 to 3 inches from your canopy.

It's also possible that other environmental factors are causing the stretch, such as excessive heat or fluctuating humidity. It could also

be that the seeds or clones you got are bunk and you need to change up your genetic pool. Luckily, you live in a state where you're relatively safe to keep on trying.

BLACKOUT

Hey, Danny, what's up? I heard you on the John Doe radio show. Quick question here: What's the best course of action if your flowering plants only got two out of 12 hours of light for a day due to a power outage? I just moved on and watched out for hermies, but I would like your input and I haven't seen a question like this in the mag. Peace out and blaze one for the nation!

Todd in Montreal

Dear Todd,

Sounds to me like you took the right course of action after the fact. There's also the possibility of the whole crisis being averted by having a gas-powered generator on hand as a last resort in case of emergencies like this. Of course, actually utilizing one really depends on your circumstances, since some houses and apartments can't just fire up a noisy generator all night long.

Failing that, you got the plants under the proper 12/12 lighting as soon as you could, so they should be fine. Interruptions to the dark cycle are far worse than interruptions to the light cycle over short periods. Your plants should bounce back no worse for wear.

INTO THE DEEP

¡Hola! I'm a first-time grower and I've purchased all the things I need for a deep-water culture (DWC) hydroponic system. My question is: How do I begin? I've germinated a few seeds, but how do I plant them into the system? Thank you for your time!

Sk8er Punk

Dear Sk8er Punk,

Once your seeds have germinated, it's important to get them into your system as soon as possible. This allows the young seedlings to get acclimated to their environment and gives them a head start on success. Your DWC system probably came with some grow rocks or other medium to fill the net cup that holds the plants upright. Fill the cup halfway to the top and gently place each seedling into it vertically, with the taproot facing downward; then carefully fill the rest of the cup, ensuring that the young plant is secure.

At this point, your plants might be too young and their roots not developed enough to reach the nourishing nutrient solution below. You may need to manually pour a mild vegetative nutrient solution through the rocks several times a day in order to keep the all-important taproot from drying out. If you're using rockwool, keep in mind that it absorbs a vast amount of water, thus requiring fewer watering cycles.

I'd like to note here the untimely passing of my friend L.K.'s beloved son, Michael Allen Kirk, born Jan. 7, 1986, in Clackamas, OR, and passing away Feb. 4, 2011, in Aurora, CO. You'll be missed but remembered, Mike! 🌱

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NICO ESCONDIDO

THE REIGN OF SPAIN

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MILE HIGH BREEDERS

Senior cultivation editor Danny Danko travels to Denver, CO, for an in-depth look at a new crop of bud breeders who have been collecting seeds for landrace strains from around the world. Learn how they're using these high-quality "Triple A" genetics to create the super-strong strains of tomorrow.

GET CONNECTED!

There's no doubt about it: California has infused the planet with the best in cannabis genetics. Executive editor Dan Skye drops in on the Cali Connection, which is fast becoming one of the premier seed outfits on the West Coast, to find out what's behind their meteoric rise.

NOAM CHOMSKY INTERVIEW

He's a linguist, philosopher and political activist, the author of 150 books, and widely regarded as one of America's foremost thinkers. So what does Noam Chomsky have to say about the War on Marijuana? Plenty—and when Chomsky speaks, pot smokers should listen!

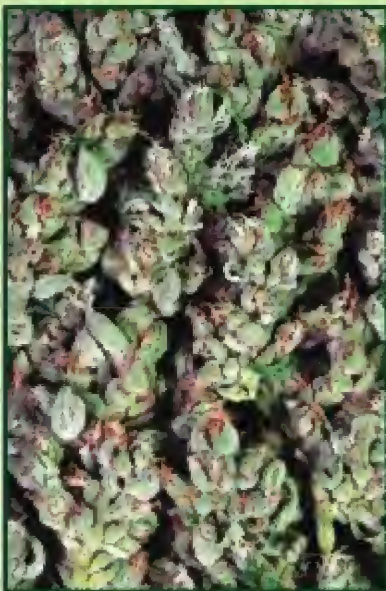
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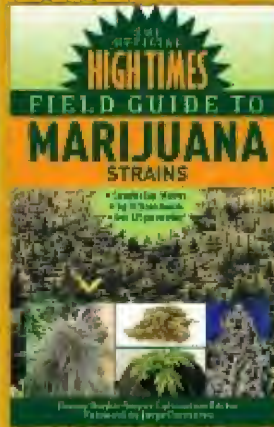


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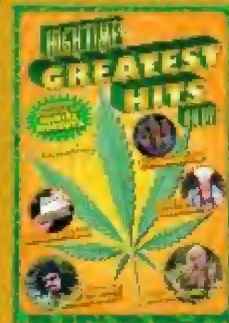
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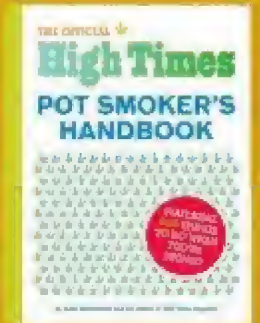
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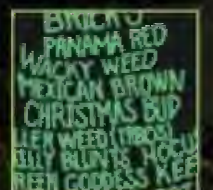
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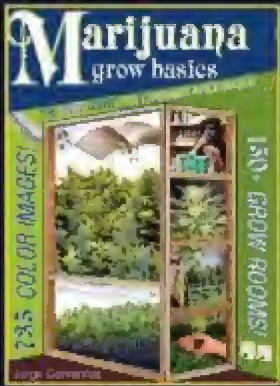
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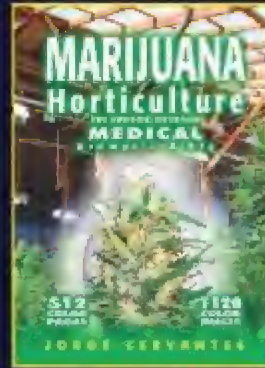
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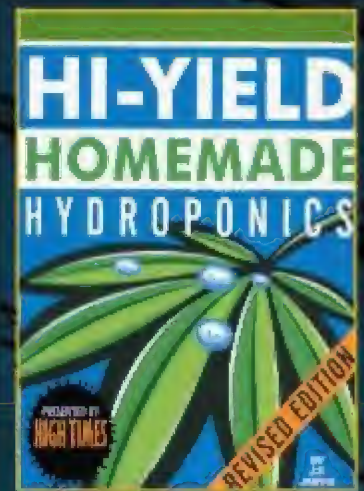
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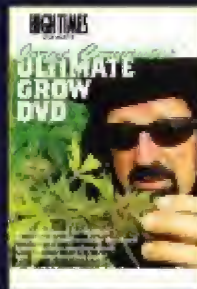
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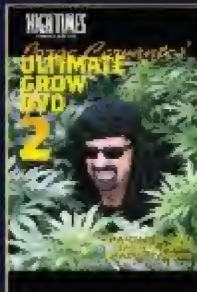
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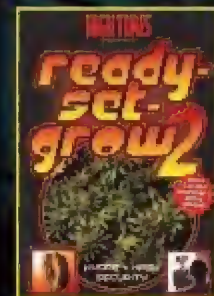
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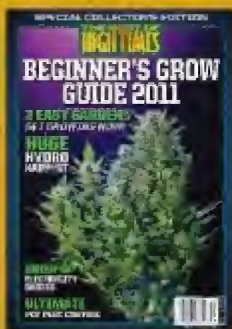
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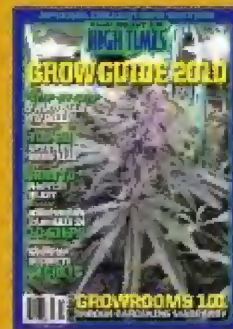
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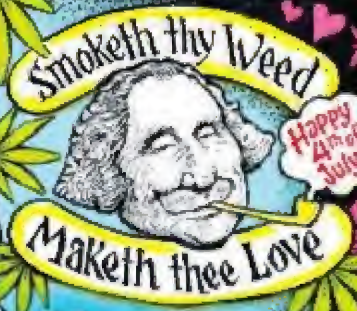
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- 13 **JUST A NORMAL**
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- 14 **NOTE HEMP**
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- 15 **Watching my girlfriend's Phil Collins impression**
- 16 **Democrats/Republicans**
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- 17 **WTF!?!?!?**
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- 18 **Mothers Lil Helper**
- 19 **Attitude (Seed Bank)**
- 20 **SAVE WEED. SAVE MONEY.**
...USE A ONE HITTER!
- 21 **NEW YORK NEW YORK**
There ain't no place like that place!
- 22 **Just Say LEGAL -IZE IT!**
- 23 **THE BUSH**
WE MAKE OURSELVES HAPPY OR MISERABLE. THE EFFORT IS THE SAME.
- Carlos Castaneda
GEORGE W. HATES
- 24 **I've been pissing just fine by myself all my life. I don't really need anyone to inspect my penis to make sure I'm pissing properly. Take this specimen cup and SHOVE IT!!**
- 25 **"Everyone pees in the shower."**
- Mochuma
- 26 **PEACE with HONOR**
with honor, your honor, our honor!
- 27 **NOT WELCOME**
- 28 **In lieu of cliches Like "POT BUST," we should say "CANNABUST"**
- 29 **Hitting the hemp with Shemp**
- 30 **I know a hippie so stoned/stupid/dumb that when he saw a sign that said "WET FLOOR," he'd!**
- 31 **DAVE'S NOT HERE!**
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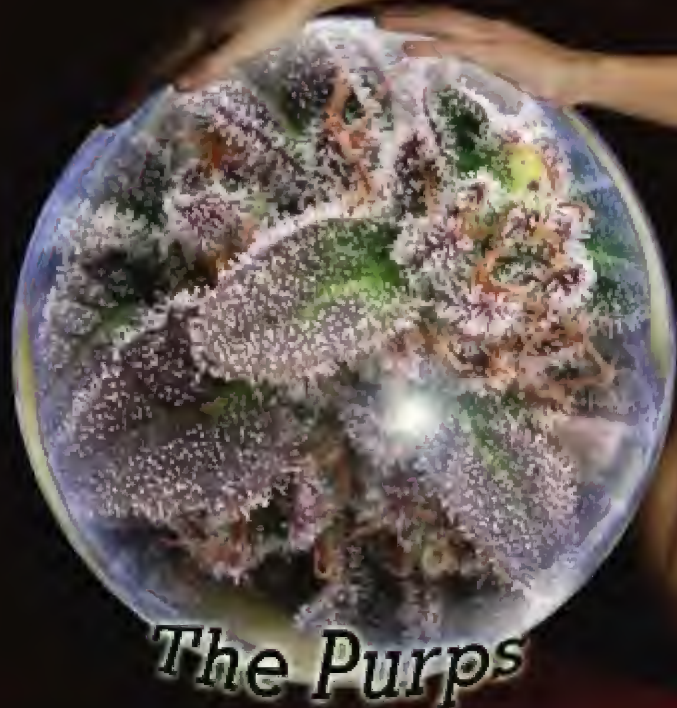
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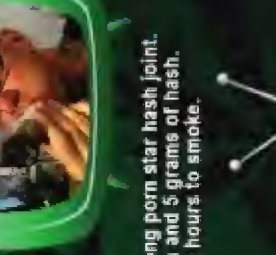
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CONTACT SEAN KUSH: SEANKUSH@HASHBAR.TV

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